



## HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE UNDER AMENDMENT 4

Under Amendment 4 and new laws passed by the Florida legislature, ex-offenders can exercise their right to vote after you have completed all the terms of your sentence. Generally, that means you have to complete 4 steps:

1. Be released from prison
2. Complete your parole or probation, and any court-ordered program, like drug abuse counseling
3. Pay full restitution to any victim
4. Pay off all court fees and fines

After you've completed those parts of your sentence, you are eligible to register to vote under Amendment 4.



**REMEMBER:** This guide doesn't replace a lawyer, so if you have any questions, talk to a lawyer or contact the People Over Profits **legal aid hotline** at [www.ThePeopleOverProfits.com](http://www.ThePeopleOverProfits.com) or 727-900-6678.

### **Q: Can all ex-offenders register to vote now?**

Most people with a felony conviction can register to vote after you have completed your sentence. However, anyone convicted of murder, on the sex offender registry, or convicted of certain other sexual offenses cannot get their right to vote restored.

If you haven't been convicted of any of those exceptions, you are eligible to register to vote. If you're not sure, check with a lawyer or call the People Over Profits legal aid line.



**Your right to vote is now in the Florida constitution.**  
**Need help registering?** The People Over Profits legal aid hotline is here to help you. To contact one of our volunteer attorneys who can make sure you get the rights you deserve, go to [ThePeopleOverProfits.com](http://ThePeopleOverProfits.com) call **727-900-6678**.

(SOURCE: SB 7066, see lines 1386-1408.)

**Q: What if my conviction for a felony was in another state, not Florida?**

You have to complete the terms of your sentence in that other state before you can register to vote in Florida.

Also, the same exceptions for murder and felony sexual offenses applies, so if you have been convicted of those crimes in another state you will not be able to vote.

**Q: What does “Completion of Sentence” mean? Isn’t my sentence completed once I’m released from prison?**

You must successfully complete every item contained in the original sentencing document. This includes:

- Release from prison
- End of your probation, parole, or community control
- Successful completion of any other court-ordered program, such as substance abuse counseling
- Full payment of restitution ordered to a victim
- Full payment of fines and fees associated with your sentence

You’ll have to take care of all of these parts of your sentence before you can register to vote.

**Q: What if I can’t afford to pay the fines and fees the court has ordered?**

You can ask the court to convert your fines and fees to community service hours, or you can ask the court to modify the original sentencing order to no longer require the fines and fees be paid. Ask a lawyer or contact the People Over Profits hotline to get started on this process.

(SOURCE: SB 7066, see lines 1370-1385)

**Q: My court fines and fees were converted to a “civil lien.” Do I still need to ask the court to waive them?**

Yes. The law specifically says that conversion to a civil lien does not mean that your financial obligation to the court is complete.

(SOURCE: SB 7066, see lines 1383-1385)

**Q: I’ve completed all the terms of my sentence, how do I register to vote?**

Once you have completed your sentence, you can register to vote just like any first-time voter: online, at your local supervisor of elections office or at the DMV. Don’t forget to



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keep your paperwork that shows you have successfully completed your sentence, but you are not required to show this paperwork in order to register.

*(SOURCE: See generally F.S. 97.053)*

**Q: What do I need to know about registering to vote? Do I need to do anything special?**

When you fill out the voter registration form, you'll need to check a box for how your voting rights were restored: through the State Constitution, or through the old "executive clemency" process. (If you're reading this guide, your rights were almost certainly restored by Amendment 4 in the State Constitution).

*(SOURCE: SB 7066, see lines 1113-1126; HB 281, lines 19-42)*

**Q: What if I have registered to vote already, but I think I may have outstanding fines and fees?**

If you registered between January 8, 2019 and July 1, 2019, you will not get in trouble for registering. However, make sure you contact a lawyer or the People Over Profits hotline right away, because you could be removed from the voting rolls. You will need to get any fines and fees you still owe waived by the court in order to stay on the voting rolls.

*(SOURCE: SB 7066, see lines 1446-1450)*

**Q: I already registered to vote, but I just got a notice saying I was disqualified. What happened?**

There could be a problem with your voter registration, or your local Supervisor of Elections may have made a mistake. It is possible that you still have to complete a part of your sentence. Make sure you contact a lawyer or the People Over Profits hotline right away, because you could be removed from the voting rolls.



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