

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Lindsay Vermeyen, Senior Vice President
RE: ACLU-NE Voting Right Restoration Research
DATE: April 25th, 2023

- The results of a poll conducted last month of Nebraska voters show there is confusion and uncertainty around existing laws when it comes to restoring voting rights to citizens with felony convictions.
 - Nearly 8 in 10 (78%) voters said they are unaware that there is any restoration of rights at all, including 41% who believe citizens with a felony conviction who have served their sentences are not allowed to vote, and another 37% who aren't sure.
- Despite uncertainty around existing laws, a strong majority (59%) of voters believe in ending the two-year waiting period for those with felony convictions and allowing them to vote as soon as they have completed all the terms of their sentence.
 - There is broad support across demographics for ending the two-year waiting period, including across the political spectrum, with 50% of Republicans, 61% of Independents and 74% of Democrats in support.
 - Support is higher among those who have personally or know an immediate family member who has been incarcerated – 66% of whom support ending the two-year waiting period.
 - In our poll, 9% of voters said they have personally been incarcerated and 21% of voters said they knew an immediate family member who was.
- Support for ending the two-year waiting period is rooted in the belief that these Nebraskans have done their time, that they should have their right to vote restored, and that it feels like additional time on their sentence.
 - Of those who support ending the two-year waiting period: 37% said the main reason to support ending the two-year waiting period was because these Nebraskans have done their time, 29% said the main reason was they should have their vote restored, and 10% said the main reason was it feels like two years added onto their sentences.
- At a fundamental level, the support for ending the two-year waiting period and allowing those with felony convictions to vote as soon as they have completed all the terms of their sentence is rooted in several key Nebraskan attitudes and values.
 - Almost universally, and regardless of party, voters agree that Nebraska should do all it can to help those who were convicted of felonies reintegrate into their communities.
 - Strong majorities also agree that once people with felony convictions have served their sentences, Nebraska should automatically allow them to vote again and that voting is a fundamental right all citizens should have, including those with prior felony convictions.

Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

<i>% Total Agree (% Strongly + Somewhat Agree)</i>	All Voters	Rep	Ind	Dem
Voting is a fundamental right all citizens should have, including those with prior felony convictions.	67	53	80	85
Once a person has served their sentence, even for a felony, and earned their chance to reenter society, Nebraska should automatically allow that person to vote again.	71	61	83	80
Nebraska should do all it can to help those who were convicted of felonies reintegrate into their communities.	83	82	80	87

Methodology

Benenson Strategy Group conducted 609 telephone, SMS, and online interviews from March 1- 6, 2023 on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Nebraska (ACLU-NE). All respondents were registered voters in Nebraska who are likely to vote in the 2024 general election. The margin of error for the data set is ±4.0% at the 95% confidence level. It is higher among subgroups. Party throughout refers to party registration.

