



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1927</b>		DATE: <b>1/24/2024</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Judiciary</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ALEX EATON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-616-9860</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>SECURE ELECTIONS PROJECT</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>130 NEIL AVE</b>			
CITY: <b>HELENA</b>		STATE: <b>MT</b>	ZIP: <b>59601</b>
EMAIL: <b>alex@csga.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 11:29 AM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

Voting promotes participation in society and enhances social ties. People living and working in the community should not be treated as second-class citizens and should be given the opportunity to contribute. By registering and voting, they can form stronger relationships and connections to their community, rather than remaining excluded.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHRISTINE DRAGONETTE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>christinedragonette@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 7:59 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I am writing in enthusiastic support of HB 1927. I am a social worker who works with hundreds of individuals each year who are working to reintegrate into society. These individuals are part of the nearly 5 million people nationwide who are disenfranchised because of a past felony conviction. They have served their time and are now working to get connected to jobs, housing, social support, and more. HB 1927 would allow them to fully participate in our democracy, just as they are often fully participating in our society by working and paying taxes. This proposed legislation is aligned with other nationwide efforts, including new laws in 8 states since 2020, to reinstate basic rights to people who have served their time. Voting is a basic right, and this legislation would take an important step toward reinstating this right for thousands of Missourians.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CONNOR LUEBBERT</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-291-2463</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MO VOTER PROTECTION COALITION</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>227 JEFFERSON ST.</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CYNTHIA WEST</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>cynthia.d.west@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 9:57 AM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

**I support restoration of voting rights after felons have completed their sentences. This promotes citizenship and decreases recidivism.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DANIELLE LACIO</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>dany@promoonline.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 4:34 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I am writing to emphatically support the restoration of voting rights specifically for individuals on parole or probation. This cause is of paramount importance as it addresses a form of discrimination that undermines the principles of democracy and perpetuates inequality. The denial of voting rights to individuals on parole or probation constitutes a significant barrier to their full participation in civic life. By singling out this group, we perpetuate a system that unfairly marginalizes a segment of the population, hindering their ability to fully reintegrate into society. Re-establishing voting rights for those on parole or probation is not just a matter of civic participation; it is a crucial step towards rectifying systemic inequities. Denying the right to vote to individuals who have served their sentences and are working towards rehabilitation perpetuates a cycle of disenfranchisement and reinforces societal divisions. This discriminatory practice disproportionately affects marginalized communities and exacerbates existing inequalities. It is essential that we recognize the importance of empowering all citizens, including those on parole or probation, to exercise their right to vote as a means of fostering a more just and inclusive society. Research consistently demonstrates that restoring voting rights contributes to successful reintegration into the community. By allowing individuals on parole or probation to vote, we acknowledge their agency, encourage civic responsibility, and pave the way for a more equitable and just democratic process. In conclusion, I fervently call upon policymakers, advocates, and citizens to rally behind the cause of restoring voting rights specifically for individuals on parole or probation. Let us dismantle the barriers that perpetuate discrimination and work towards building a society where every citizen, regardless of their legal status, can actively participate in shaping the future of our democracy.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DARIA KEYS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>daria@aredcircle.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 11:53 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I'm writing in support of HB 1927 to restore voting rights to individuals on probation and parole. Individuals who are on parole or probation offer a keen perspective on life and experience with Missouri policies that others, including elected officials, will never have. Delaying the restoration of voting rights until a term of probation or parole is complete, which can take years, can mean that individuals who know what best helps and hinders their everyday lives are not always represented when policies are put into place. Majority of the state representatives and senators take the idea that they represent everyone in their district seriously. It should also be noted that elected officials pay more attention to voters, and when the right to vote is detained or denied, their interests are attended to. If there's ever a chance to provide connection in our communities successfully, there has to be meaningful strides made for engagement. Voting is a civic responsibility that brings meaning to one's life and it's an important part of making a person feel like a part of their community. Missouri is one of fifteen states where people with a felony conviction lose their voting rights through incarceration and while on parole and/or probation. Please join the other state that have taken steps to restore voting rights immediately after incarceration and vote do-pass for HB 1927. Thank you for your time and consideration and have a beautiful day!



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>FELICIA D. HAMPTON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>GREG A CAMPBELL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>gcampbell@hammondshinners.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 12:37 PM</b>
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By allowing individuals with felony convictions to vote upon release, even though they are still on probation or parole, the bill would promote rehabilitation and responsible citizenship among those on probation or parole. Since these people are working and paying taxes, they deserve a voice in how government operates. There is a national trend towards the restoration of voting rights upon release from incarceration. The current practice of denying voting rights to those on probation or parole also disproportionately impacts people of color.





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>GWEN SMITH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-324-9656</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>EMPOWER MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY MANAGER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>4428 ELLENWOOD AVE</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63116</b>
EMAIL: <b>gwen@empowermissouri.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 11:28 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Empower Missouri has been committed for over 120 years to improving the quality of life for all Missouri residents through advocacy and policy change. Since our inception, Empower Missouri has focused on the criminal justice system and its impacts. Our Community Justice Coalition consists of community advocates and organizations from across the state who work with those who have been impacted by the criminal justice system. Many coalition members are formerly incarcerated or have currently incarcerated loved ones, and all are connected by a vision for a future without mass incarceration. We support HB 1927 and restoring voting rights to individuals on probation and parole. People on parole and probation are your constituents and our neighbors. Each of us has unique insight into our own lives and experiences with Missouri policy that others, including elected officials, simply will never have the chance to experience. When we delay the restoration of voting rights until a term of probation or parole is complete - which can be years - this can mean that individuals who know best what helps and hinders their everyday lives are not always represented in state policymaking. We believe that the majority of our state representatives and senators take seriously the idea that they represent everyone in their district. We also recognize the reality that elected officials pay more attention to voters, and when people's right to vote is delayed or denied, their preferences and interests won't be attended to. Additionally, if we expect people to reintegrate into our communities successfully, we must also provide them pathways to meaningful engagement. Engaging in the civic responsibility of voting is a meaningful (re)connection to the greater community. Delaying the restoring of an individual's voting rights puts up barriers, disenfranchises, and encourages isolation instead of what is needed, which is moving toward what it is to be a flourishing member of the community. A single vote does not change outcomes, but it is an important part of making a person feel like a contributing part of the whole, counting as a full citizen. Missouri is one of fifteen states where people with a felony conviction lose their voting rights through incarceration and while on parole and/or probation. Empower Missouri urges this committee to join the other states that have taken steps to restore voting rights immediately after incarceration and vote do-pass for HB 1927. Thank you for your time and consideration of this very important matter.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JANET SOLECKI</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>archtalon@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 8:28 PM</b>

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**I urge everyone on this committee to vote in favor of restoring the right to vote for parolees. They have fulfilled their time and paid their price to the people. Let us honor their time served by restoring their right to vote.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEANETTE MOTT J-MO OXFORD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jmo.mott.oxford@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 10:02 PM</b>
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As a member of a community of faith who maintains relationships of support and encouragement with persons incarcerated at four MO DOC facilities currently, I am very supportive of Rep. Stinnett's HB 1927 and thank her for filing this. Those on probation or parole who live in our communities should be encouraged to vote as a way to assume the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. These members of our communities are impacted by laws and policies, and it is important that they participate in electing public servants who can take action to enact sound laws and policies.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEREMY CADY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-799-3277</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY</b>		TITLE: <b>STATE DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 94</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL: <b>jcady@afphq.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/23/2024 12:01 PM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEREMY LAFAVER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-654-3666</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>EMPOWER MO</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JUDITH ANN CAMPBELL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jacampbell314@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 12:12 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

**I strongly support restoring voting rights to those on propagation or parole after they have served their time. If they have served their time they can be working and paying taxes and deserve the right to vote. Even if they are not working due to age or disability they should have their voting rights restored. Thank you.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KATHLEEN MURNAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>kmur1327@sbcglobal.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 8:00 AM</b>
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I am supporting legislation for restoring voting rights to people on probation and parole. This is a positive path forward to people remaking their lives. A vote in favor of these people to be able to commit and vote is a vote for our democratic future in Missouri. It will encourage them to engage and be hopeful about participating in decision making for the welfare of all of the people.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KENYA BRUMFIELD-YOUNG</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Kenya.BrumfieldYoung@slu.edu</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 8:49 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I am submitting this written testimony in support of the bill introduced by Representative Melanie Stinnett, which proposes critical reforms to voting rights for individuals convicted of felonies or misdemeanors. Specifically, the bill seeks to allow those on probation or parole the right to vote, a move that represents a significant advancement in our approach to rehabilitation and reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals into society. It's imperative to note that my testimony reflects my individual perspective and analysis and does not represent the views of St. Louis University or its affiliates. This legislative proposal is grounded in a rehabilitative approach that recognizes the importance of civic engagement as a component of successful reentry into the community. The positive implications of such a policy are multifaceted and supported by a growing body of research:

**Reduced Recidivism:** Evidence suggests that facilitating civic engagement for individuals on probation or parole can contribute to lower recidivism rates. For instance, a study by the Florida Parole Commission observed that recidivism rates among individuals who had their civil rights restored were significantly lower than the state average—11% compared to 33%. Considering Missouri's probation and parole population exceeded 19,000 in 2020, enabling these individuals to vote could meaningfully reduce recidivism, enhancing public safety and community well-being.

**Economic Benefits:** The economic rationale for reducing recidivism is compelling. With the cost of incarcerating one individual in Missouri averaging \$22,350 annually, initiatives that contribute to lower recidivism rates can result in substantial savings for the state. These funds could be redirected towards preventive and rehabilitative programs, amplifying the bill's positive impact.

**Social Reintegration:** The right to vote is a cornerstone of civic participation and democracy. Extending this right to individuals on probation or parole can significantly aid their reintegration process, fostering a sense of belonging and responsibility towards their communities. This inclusion can enhance the effectiveness of reentry efforts, leading to more stable and engaged communities.

**Legal and Ethical Considerations:** The move to restore voting rights to individuals living in the community, albeit under probation or parole, aligns with broader legal and ethical considerations that emphasize rehabilitation and second chances. This approach is consistent with a growing national and international consensus that recognizes the detrimental effects of disenfranchisement as an extended form of punishment that hinders reintegration efforts.

In summary, Representative Stinnett's bill presents a thoughtful, evidence-based approach to criminal justice reform that recognizes the importance of reintegrating individuals into society as full participants in our democracy. The proposed changes promise not only to improve the lives of those directly affected but also to contribute to a more just, equitable, and safe Missouri. I strongly support this bill and urge the committee to consider the profound and positive impacts it could have on our state and its residents. Thank you for your attention to this significant issue.

Sincerely, Kenya Brumfield-Young, MLS,  
MSCJ Assistant Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice St. Louis University





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KEVIN PRANGE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>kevprange@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 12:52 PM</b>
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I fully support this bill to restore voting rights to those who have left prison, but who are still on probation or parole. I care about this issue because I've seen how the current law impacted a friend of mine who only just recently came off of parole. Until this past fall, he could not fully participate in the democratic process even though he has been fully employed since his release and paying taxes. This is patently unfair and is essentially taxation without representation. Please pass HB 1927



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>LINDA REZNY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>lrezny@hotmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 11:55 AM</b>
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I am glad to see that a similar measure was given a favorable judgement in the 20123 session and made it thru all the House committees, failing to proceed due to lack of time. So it is also good that the process was started earlier this year.. Good luck Rep Sinnett on such a worthy bill..Missouri is currently one of only fifteen states where people with a felony conviction lose their voting rights throughincarceration and while on parole and/or probation. This is unfortunate because Voting encourages engagement and participation. Restoring voting rights reduces recidivism It gives people a stake in their communities. This is why many states are moving towards restoring voting rights for those on probation and parole.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1927</b>		DATE: <b>1/24/2024</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Judiciary</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARILYN MCLEOD</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-239-3708</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>8706 MANCHESTER RD., SUITE 104</b>			
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63144</b>
EMAIL: <b>marilyn_mcleod@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 6:51 PM</b>	

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

Currently, Missourians with felony convictions cannot vote not only while incarcerated, but also after they are released, if they are still on probation or parole. This bill would restore voting eligibility to Missourians on probation or parole for a prior felony conviction, restoring voting rights after a person has served their time in incarceration. This much needed reform would place Missouri in line with national trends favoring rights restoration due to proven impacts on reducing recidivism and promoting citizenship for those on probation and parole, who are living, working and paying taxes in our communities. Nationwide, nearly 5 million people are disenfranchised due to a felony conviction in their past -- more than 3/4 of those are not incarcerated but have served their time -- they are working and paying taxes, yet they have no voice in government. Voters of color are disproportionately disqualified from voting due to these so-called "felon disenfranchisement laws," which have roots in the post-civil war era to keep African Americans from voting. The League of Women Voters of Missouri would like to go on record in support of HB 1927.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARSHA LERENBERG</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>marsha.lerenberg@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 4:22 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I strongly urge your support for HB 1927 that would restore voting eligibility for those who have served their time in incarceration. Nationwide, nearly 5 million people are disenfranchised due to a felony conviction in their past -- more than 3/4 of those have served their time and are no longer incarcerated. They are working and paying taxes, yet they have no voice in government. Voters of color are disproportionately disqualified from voting due to these so-called "felon disenfranchisement laws," which have roots in the post-civil war era to keep African Americans from voting. One in 19 African Americans of voting age is disenfranchised due to a felony - a rate 3.5 times that of non-African Americans. Among the adult African American population, 5.3 percent is disenfranchised compared to 1.5 percent of the adult non-African American population. Since 2020, new laws took effect in 8 states expanding voting rights after incarceration. Missouri must join the states expanding voting rights for its citizens after their incarceration. Those who have served their time deserve to have their voice heard at the ballot box. Vote YES on HB 1927!



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARTINA BERGER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>202-266-5140</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>CAMPAIGN LEGAL CENTER</b>		TITLE: <b>LAW CLERK</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>1101 14TH ST. NW, STE. 400</b>			
CITY: <b>WASHINGTON</b>		STATE: <b>DC</b>	ZIP: <b>20005</b>
EMAIL: <b>mberger@campaignlegalcenter.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 7:49 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

January 24, 2024 Members of the Judiciary Committee? Missouri House of Representatives?? Via Online Portal? Re: ? Support for H.B. 1927 to Restore Voting Rights to Individuals on Probation and Parole? ? Dear Chair Evans, Vice-Chair Veit, Ranking Minority Member Sauls, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:?? ? We write to urge you to support H.B. 1927, a bill to restore the right to vote to Missourians serving community supervision for felony convictions. H.B. 1927 will re-enfranchise tens of thousands of people, simplify the current law, and bring Missouri more closely in line with the 25 others states that do not strip people serving community supervision of the right to vote.<sup>1</sup> Campaign Legal Center (“CLC”) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to protect and strengthen the U.S. democratic process across all levels of government through litigation, policy analysis, and public education. Our Restore Your Vote program helps restore voting rights to people with past convictions by providing direct rights restoration services and empowering community leaders to understand and monitor implementation of rights restoration laws.? We strongly support ending Missouri’s disenfranchisement of individuals who are serving community supervision after a felony conviction. The right to vote is sacred and foundational; to deprive someone of that right is a profound and serious governmental act. While we do not believe there is any legitimate reason why an American citizen should be stripped of the right to vote in the first place, there is certainly no justification for depriving people on community supervision of the right to vote. Missourians on probation or parole live and work in their communities. They pay taxes and should have a say in the policy decisions that affect them and their families.? ? Felony disenfranchisement laws – particularly post-incarceration – do not serve any legitimate criminal legal purpose: they have no meaningful punitive, deterrent, or restorative value. Indeed, studies actually show that disenfranchisement undermines rehabilitation and hinders re-entry.<sup>2</sup> Conversely, restoring the right to vote improves individuals’ connection to and engagement with their communities while incarcerated, as well as their transition back into society post-release.<sup>3</sup> ? Still, despite these empirical facts, felony disenfranchisement laws persist, and their history explains why. In many states, these laws were enacted after the Civil War and proliferated during the Jim Crow era with the explicit and open purpose of undermining the 14th and 15th Amendments.<sup>4</sup> Put simply, felony disenfranchisement exists and continues in the United States because of efforts to suppress voters and communities of color.<sup>5</sup> Missouri’s disenfranchisement scheme still serves that purpose today, disenfranchising Black citizens at over 2.5 times the rate of the general population.<sup>6</sup> Felony disenfranchisement and its racist roots are a stain on our democracy. H.B. 1927 will make great strides toward eliminating this exclusionary electoral feature and restore the right to vote to nearly 60,000 voters from Missouri.<sup>7</sup> ? ? Enfranchising formerly incarcerated individuals is also important for democratic accountability. Elected officials make consequential decisions every day that directly impact formerly incarcerated voters. Not only do legislators make the laws that such individuals were

charged with breaking, but legislators also create the conditions for their re-entry and continued rehabilitation after incarceration, processes which are so often hindered by barriers to employment, housing, and other markers of full participation in a community.<sup>8</sup> Formerly incarcerated voters' exposure to the criminal legal system gives them a major stake in the outcome of public policy, and their participation is crucial if the ballot box is truly to be a site where we hold our elected officials accountable. A system in which individuals are eligible to vote upon their release from incarceration additionally protects against de facto disenfranchisement: the process by which confusion and misinformation around voting after a criminal conviction leads many people with past convictions—and election officials—to believe wrongly that they cannot vote, even if they are eligible.<sup>9</sup> H.B. 1927 will combat de facto disenfranchisement by creating a simple, bright line rule governing voter eligibility. We also urge you to eliminate disenfranchisement for individuals incarcerated for misdemeanor offenses by removing the language “or misdemeanor” from proposed sections 115.133 (2)(1) and 561.026(1).<sup>10</sup> Disenfranchisement for misdemeanor convictions is likely unconstitutional, since the Missouri Constitution only permits “persons convicted of felony, or crime connected with the exercise of the right of suffrage” to be “excluded by law from voting.”<sup>11</sup> Given that misdemeanors pertain to minor offenses, misdemeanor disenfranchisement also does not advance any meaningful public policy interests. In sum, H.B. 1927 is Missouri's opportunity to join the more than half of states that have eliminated disenfranchisement after prison.<sup>12</sup> There are tens of thousands of Missourians working to put their lives back together while serving probation or parole. They deserve a voice in our democracy and a say in the future of the state. H.B. 1927 is an essential step toward ending the outdated, discriminatory, and anti-democratic practice of felony disenfranchisement and will affirm Missouri's commitment to the principle that democracy works best when all eligible voters can participate. We urge you to take this important step.

Sincerely,

Martina Berger? Law Clerk?  
 mberger@campaignlegalcenter.org?? (202) 266-5140??

Blair Bowie? Director, Restore Your Vote?  
 bbowie@campaignlegalcenter.org?? (202) 736-2201

Danielle Lang?  
 Senior Director, Voting Rights? dlang@campaignlegalcenter.org?? (202) 856-7911?

Campaign Legal Center? 1101 14th St. NW, Ste. 400?? Washington, DC 20005? 1 See?

National Conference of State Legislatures, “Felon Voting Rights” (Dec. 7, 2023), <https://www.ncsl.org/elections-and-campaigns/felon-voting-rights>. 2 See, e.g., Guy Padraic Hamilton-Smith & Matt Vogel, “The Violence of Voicelessness: The Impact of Felony Disenfranchisement on Recidivism,” 22 Berkeley La Raza L.J. 407 (2012); Christopher Uggen & Jeff Manza, “Voting and Subsequent Crime and Arrest: Evidence From a Community Sample,” 36 Colum. Hum. Rts. L. Rev. 193, 205 (2004). Felony disenfranchisement not only means that incarcerated people, as a class, are inadequately represented by the political process, it also means that the political power of certain racial and economic groups is diluted due to the number of members who cannot vote. In other words, disenfranchisement not only impacts incarcerated citizens, it disempowers the groups to which they belong. See Christopher Uggen, Jeff Manza, & Angela Behrens, “Felony Voting Rights and the Disenfranchisement of African Americans,” 5 Souls 48 (2003), [http://users.cla.umn.edu/~uggen/Uggen\\_Manza\\_Behrens\\_04\\_Souls.pdf](http://users.cla.umn.edu/~uggen/Uggen_Manza_Behrens_04_Souls.pdf). 3 See, e.g., Civic Nebraska, “Recidivism & Voting Rights, Case Study: Florida” (Jan. 30, 2019), <https://www.civicnebraska.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2019-Florida-recidivism-case-study.pdf>; Victoria Shineman, “Restoring Rights, Restoring Trust: Evidence that Reversing Felon Disenfranchisement Penalties Increases Both Trust and Cooperation with Government” (Oct. 25, 2018), [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3272694](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3272694). 4 Jennifer Rae Taylor, “Jim Crow's Lasting Legacy at the Ballot Box,” The Marshall Project (Aug. 20, 2018), <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2018/08/20/jim-crow-s-lasting-legacy-at-the-ballot-box>. 5 Erin Kelley, “Brennan Center for Justice, Racism & Felony Disenfranchisement: An Intertwined History” (2017), <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/racism-felony-disenfranchisement-intertwined-history>; George Brooks, “Felon Disenfranchisement: Law, History, Policy, and Politics,” 32 Fordham Urban L.J. 101 (2005), <https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?httpsredir=1&article=2140&context=ulj>. 6 The Sentencing Project, “Locked Out 2022: Estimates of People Denied Voting Rights Due to a Felony Conviction” 16-17 (2022), <https://www.sentencingproject.org/app/uploads/2022/10/Locked-Out-2022-Estimates-of-People-Denied-Voting.pdf> (Missouri disenfranchises 1.79% of its general population and 4.56% of its Black population). 7 See id. at 16 (in 2022, approximately 58,502 Missourians were disenfranchised while serving probation or parole for a felony conviction). 8 See Celisa Calacal, “Formerly Incarcerated People Can Still Vote in Missouri. This KC Group Shows Them How,” Missouri Independent, Sept. 28, 2021, <https://missouriindependent.com/2021/09/28/formerly-incarcerated-people-can-still-vote-in-missouri-this-kc-group-shows-them-how/>. 9 See Erika Wood & Rachel Bloom, “Am. Civil Liberties Union & Brennan Ctr. for Justice, De Facto Disenfranchisement” 2-5 (2008), <https://www.aclu.org/other/de-facto-disenfranchisement>. 10 See H.B. 1927, 102nd Gen. Assembly, 2nd Reg. Sess. (Mo. 2024), <https://documents.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills241/hlrbillspdf/4046H.01l.pdf>. 11 Mo. Const. art. VIII,

§ 2. 12 See?National Conference of State Legislatures,?supra?note 1.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHELLE SMITH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-814-2910</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI JUSTICE COALITION</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 300563</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63130</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			





MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>NANCY AMES</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>njoames@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 9:18 AM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

**Ex-cons who have served their time deserve citizen rights. Many work jobs, pay taxes, live under the laws in place, and deserve a second chance to improve their status. Please pass this bill. Thank you**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>NANCY PRICE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>nprice07@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 7:27 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I ask you to support HB 1927. When a formerly incarcerated person is released, society wants that person to become a productive member of his/her community---get a job, a residence, pay their bills, obey the law, and contribute to their neighborhood. This is actually what we would like everyone to do! Currently, a person must complete and probation and/or parole before their vote can be restored. Since formerly incarcerated person may have to wait years to regain their vote, they frequently feel they are not a full participant in their community and society. There is a correlation between those who do vote and a lower rate of recidivism. That is a win-win for society. I strongly urge you to pass this bill. Thank you



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARAH YOO</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>sarah.k.yoo@wustl.edu</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 4:21 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

My name is Sarah Yoo, a constituent from St. Louis, and I want to express my strong support of HB 1927. Restoring the right to vote for those that are on probation or parole is beneficial to society as a whole, as it promotes citizenship and reduces recidivism. The right to vote is a fundamental right that should not be denied to those that have served their time and seek to re-integrate into society. Further, restricting these voting rights disproportionately impacts communities of color as the criminal justice system is racially biased. We should always be working towards actively dismantling this country's history of racism and its effects. Enacting HB 1927 into law would be one step in the right direction. I respectfully ask that you pass HB 1927.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>STACY TYLER STROZIER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Stacy.strozier09@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 1:16 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

It is well documented that the criminalization of black, brown and poor communities in general have ostracized a large percentage of our population to be relegated to 2nd class citizens in America. Still today, there is a large percentage of the population of poor communities that are, in effect, 3/5 of a person. Do the right thing. Allowing people to vote is the very least of what is expected in our society.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SUSAN GIBSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Onesuegibson@protonmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 2:59 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

**This much needed reform would place Missouri in line with national trends favoring rights restoration in states due to proven impacts on reducing recidivism and promoting citizenship for those on probation and parole, who are living, working and paying taxes in our communities**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>TERESA DANIELEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>tkmithen@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 12:40 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

**Please pass this bill! I am so excited to see something positive proposed by the Missouri House!**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>TOM STEWART</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>202-664-7000</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>SECURE DEMOCRACY USA</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR OF POLICY</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>3144 ABELL AVE</b>			
CITY: <b>BALTIMORE</b>		STATE: <b>MD</b>	ZIP: <b>21218</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C."HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 11:57 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CLIFTON DAVIS CLIFTON DAVIS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Cliftonx19@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/24/2024 4:58 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

**I am a convicted felon on parole from Missouri serving a 40 year sentence. I served 27 years of this 40 sentence, without this bill I won't be eligible to vote until 2036.**