

**Re-enfranchise the Voting Rights of Felons**  
**Support H.F. 491/S.F. 107**

**Summary:**

- **Felons who are no longer incarcerated are still disenfranchised**
  - Minnesota law currently does not allow felons to vote until they have completed the entirety of their term of incarceration, parole, and probation. Only after their civil rights have been fully “restored” are they allowed to vote.
- **Following incarceration, felons should have the right to vote.**
  - The disenfranchisement of felons has a harmful impact on low-income and minority communities where a disproportionately high number of individuals are disenfranchised due to felony convictions.

**The issues:**

Voting is a **civil right** which Americans, felons or not, should not be deprived of. Many states other than Minnesota allow felons to reintegrate into the election process more quickly than Minnesota law currently allows.

- **19** states, including Minnesota, do not allow felons to vote until they have completed their term of **incarceration, parole, and probation.**
- **17** states and Washington D.C. allow felons to vote either after their incarceration or completion of parole.
- **2** states, Maine and Vermont, allow felons to vote **while they are still incarcerated.**

**Solution:**

- **H.F. 491** is a bill aimed at “restoring the civil right to vote of an individual upon release from incarceration.”
  - Specifically, **“An individual convicted of a felony has the civil right to vote restored when the individual completes any incarceration imposed and executed by the court for the offense, or upon sentencing if no incarceration is imposed.”**

