

Inmate Voting

622.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes the requirement for providing eligible inmates the opportunity to vote during elections, pursuant to election statutes.

622.2 POLICY

Inmates who have not been convicted of a felony and are in custody may have the right to vote. Except for individual inmates who have lost the right to vote, sentenced inmates also maintain this right. Because inmates are unable to access public voting polls, the Director or designee shall develop written procedures whereby the county registrar of voters allows qualified inmates to vote in local, state and federal elections, pursuant to election codes.

Inmates should be advised of voting methods during the inmate orientation.

622.3 VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Inmates maintain their right to vote while incarcerated if they are:

- (a) A citizen of the United States.
- (b) A resident of the county.
- (c) At least 18 years of age at the time of the next election.
- (d) Mentally competent (not been declared mentally incompetent by a court).
- (e) Awaiting trial or on trial for a criminal offense.
- (f) Serving time for a traffic or misdemeanor offense or as a condition of probation.
- (g) Not convicted of a felony offense and sentenced to serve time in a state prison.
- (h) Not on parole as a result of a felony conviction.

622.4 PROCEDURES

Prior to each election, the Director will designate a Captain to be a liaison between SCORE and the local registrar of voters. The designated Captain will be responsible for assisting inmates who have requested to vote.

622.4.1 REGISTERING TO VOTE

An inmate who is eligible to vote and requests to register should complete a voter application. The application should be submitted to the Captain, who will forward the application to the local election official.

South Correctional Entity - SCORE

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622.4.2 REQUESTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

An inmate who will be in custody during an election and requests to vote by absentee ballot should complete an application. The completed application should be submitted to corrections staff, who will forward the application to the local election official.

622.4.3 VOTING

All ballots received shall be delivered to inmates in a timely manner to ensure compliance with the inmate's right to vote. Once the ballot has been delivered to the inmate, it shall be the responsibility of the inmate to complete his/her ballot and return to corrections staff for mailing. If the inmate is indigent, the jail will mail the ballot; if not, the inmate is responsible for the postage.