



THE TIME IS NOW FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

2021 LEAGUE REPORT ON FELONY DISENFRANCHISEMENT SHOWS:

197,672 Kentucky citizens, formerly convicted of a felony, remain disenfranchised despite the Governor's 2019 Executive Order 2019-003 that enabled 178,397 to regain the right to register and vote

KY is an outlier: only 3 states ban persons who have completed their sentence from voting

KY maintains its rank at the bottom nationally for the number of citizens disenfranchised with the fourth highest rate of disenfranchisement

Kentucky has the seventh highest rate (15.1%) of disenfranchisement of African-Americans in the nation – 38,665 of 256,024.

A constitutional amendment is needed to bring Kentucky into the norm nationally

Kentuckians support a constitutional amendment by a 2-1 margin

The League of Women Voters of KY renews its call for passage of a bill to allow Kentuckians to vote on a change in our Kentucky Constitution making restoration of the right to vote automatic upon completion of sentence.

Report shows more progress needed

The League of Women Voters of Kentucky's An Update: Felony Disenfranchisement in the Commonwealth of Kentucky (January 2021) shows Kentucky has made much progress since 2019 but has much, much further to go.

197,672 disenfranchised

In spite of the Governor's 2019 Executive Order that restored the right to register and vote to 178,397 persons, 197,672 remain disenfranchised. This is more than the population of all but 2 Kentucky counties.

KY African Americans disproportionately disenfranchised

Kentucky has the seventh highest rate of disenfranchisement of African-Americans in the nation. Of the 256,024 African-Americans of voting age in Kentucky, 38,665 or 15.10% are disenfranchised.

Support 2021's HB 232 without amendments

HB 232, found at: [21RS HB 232 \(ky.gov\)](https://legislature.ky.gov/legresolutions/21RS/232), sponsored by Representative Jason Nemes and co-sponsored by Representatives Pamela Stevenson and William Lawrence proposes to amend Section 145 of the Constitution of Kentucky to automatically restore the voting rights of persons convicted of certain felonies upon completion of their imprisonment, probation, or parole.

This Report, along with the 2020, 2019, 2017, 2013, and 2006 Reports, is available at [Felony Disenfranchisement – League of Women Voters of Kentucky \(lwvky.org\)](https://www.lwvky.org)

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. As a nonpartisan body, the League takes action on issues but does not support or oppose candidates or parties. Members include both men and women.
