



- A person who either receives a pardon from the governor, receives an executive order giving them the right to vote, or obtains a Bill of Suffrage from the legislature to regain their voting rights
- To qualify to regain their voting rights through the legislature (the third option), the person must pay all legal financial obligations ([https://www.ms.gov/legislation/bills/2021/03/M-24](#)).
- “The Legislature normally approves individual bills to restore voting rights one person at a time. Normally less than five people have their rights restored each year. In the 2021 session, the rights of just two people were restored.” These two Bills of Suffrage that were granted were out of 21 applicants (so a 9.5% voter restoration rate). ([https://www.ms.gov/legislation/bills/2021/04/21/S-256103452](#); see also [https://www.ms.gov/legislation/bills/2021/04/21/S-256103452](#))

2. Executive order (Miss. Code § 47-7-41)

- Discuss this option with the person's probation field supervisor
- Includes submitting a written request to person's probation field supervisor

3. By a two-thirds vote of both houses, of all elected members (Miss. Const., § 253; [https://www.legis.mississippi.gov/legis/2021/03/M - 2021 - 24. \)](#)

- Contact the person's legislator about getting a Bill of Surrender to restore the person's voting rights
 - For someone who has spent time in the prison system, this would likely be a very intimidating process
- The legislator should be able to provide the person with a form that the person will fill out with information including details about the person's conviction and date of arrest
- Register to vote by mail or in person ([https://www.sos.ms.gov/voter-registration/#_01](#))
 - The voter registration form clearly indicates that a person cannot register to vote if they have been convicted of one of the above listed crimes
 - Although the form later indicates that a person can vote if they have had their voting rights restored, the prior section indicating loss of voting rights might deter people from even filling out the form (they likely won't read far enough to realize that there is a process by which they can regain the right to vote)
 - Providing false information on the voter registration form (whether intentional or not) is a felony punishable by up to 5 years in prison, \$5,000, or both, which is likely a deterrent for a returning citizen who likely does not know the nuances of whether they are qualified to vote
 - This felony of voter fraud is also a felony for which a person loses the right to vote
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