



The Leadership Conference
Education Fund

Vote for Justice

Toolkit

2022

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I.

Introduction

The Vision for Justice campaign, launched in 2020 as a partnership between The Leadership Conference Education Fund, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and Civil Rights Corps, serves as a north star in the movement to transform the criminal-legal system and reimagine public safety in America.

The campaign's policy platform has been endorsed by 117 civil and human rights and social justice organizations. Over the past two years, the campaign has built a community — of advocates, grassroots activists, policymakers, business leaders, educators, artists, athletes, and people eager to make a difference — that amplifies the urgent need for a new paradigm of public safety that keeps all communities truly safe.

As part of the Vision for Justice campaign, we launched Vote for Justice — a digital organizing campaign to build a diverse and engaged community of voters who understand the connection between justice, voting, and other acts of civic participation. Through the campaign, we are educating our communities about the roles of public officials in making policies that impact our criminal-legal system and about the importance of voting to usher in a new vision for justice. When we vote, and when we are empowered with knowledge about key officials in the criminal-legal system and how the system operates, we can begin to reimagine a nation that honors the rights, dignity, and humanity of all people.

For democracy to work for us all, it must include us all. Together, we can learn more about how to address and explore a broad range of issues beginning with policing, pretrial justice, marijuana policy, school funding, environmental threats, sentencing, voter re-enfranchisement, and investments in communities and non-carceral approaches to prevent and address harm and violence.

Become a Justice Voter

This toolkit will equip people to become justice voters, a community that invests in advancing justice through voting. Justice voters are a diverse community who understand the connection between justice — including the criminal-legal system and voting — and will help educate their communities about people’s rights and freedom in every election. Through the campaign, we are organizing the public to become voters and to understand how voting and civic participation are important to advancing justice.

A defining feature of the carceral system is the opportunity denied to a person after incarceration. Among the [hundreds of collateral consequences](#) that those with felony convictions experience is [losing the right to vote](#). This disenfranchisement serves as motivation to consider the intersection of the criminal-legal system and voting. Because criminal-legal policies like voter disenfranchisement are determined by those who we vote into office at all levels, we must consider the various ways that justice is on the ballot.

With this toolkit, justice voters will learn how to better understand the ballot and the mechanics of voting: the who, what, when, where, and why. It will discuss the importance of showing up as a justice voter, especially given the millions of people who are denied the chance because of a felony conviction.

This toolkit will also educate justice voters on the various types of elected offices and the role those offices have in shaping policies that are central to justice in this country. It will discuss the many issues that are critical to a just society: policing, bail, marijuana, sentencing, and voting rights restoration. Finally, the toolkit will profile states where justice will be on the ballot in 2022.

Justice Is on the Ballot

In recent years, justice issues like criminal-legal transformation have been on [the ballot](#) in states across the country. Voters have made decisions [through ballot referendums or initiatives](#) to secure police oversight commissions, legalize marijuana, [prevent jail expansion](#), and enfranchise voters with criminal histories.

As such, [referendums](#), which are permitted in half of the states, provide voters with significant opportunities to establish or repeal state and local laws. They are also used by voters to approve or reject government expenditures. Referendums on criminal-legal transformation are not the only way to shape policies in this space, however.

Voting for [local, state, and federal office holders](#), including judges, provides another avenue to have your voice heard. Critical to that process is learning more about policies that can affect your community, educating elected officials and candidates on those issues, and understanding what is on the ballot.

Vote Down-Ballot Justice

When it comes to elections, presidential and congressional races have the attention of the electorate. [About 67 percent](#) of people eligible to vote cast a ballot in the 2020 presidential election. And while state and local races, or “[down-ballot races](#)” as they are often called, are deserving of voters’ attention too, [just 27 percent](#) of voters typically participate in municipal elections across the country.

Contrary to what low voter turnout suggests, electoral participation at the state and local levels is critical. From education and the environment to transportation and taxes, the issues on down-ballot races can have a greater [impact on people’s livelihoods](#) than those nationally. For [voters seeking justice transformation](#), many opportunities for change exist at the local and state levels.





II.

The 5 W's of Justice Voting

Who Are Justice Voters?

A justice voter is anyone committed to using the sacred right to [vote and to educate themselves and their community on the public officials that make the policies and the laws that define our criminal-legal system](#). So important is voting that advocates have long been seeking to [enshrine an affirmative right to vote](#) in the U.S. Constitution. Justice voters can use the power of the vote to advance their [vision for justice](#). A justice voter must meet voter eligibility requirements, which can be determined through platforms like [vote.org](#) and [vote411.org](#). Justice voters can stay engaged on justice transformation priorities through [community](#) and [organization](#) resources.

There are two primary requirements to vote in federal elections: a person must be 18 years old and a United States citizen. In addition to these two qualifications, a person must meet state registration and residency requirements. Another caveat pertains to [U.S. citizens residing in U.S. territories](#): they are able to elect a non-voting member to the U.S. House of Representatives, but have no representation in the Senate. [With the exception of Washington, D.C.](#), citizens residing in U.S. territories are not eligible to vote for president in the general election.

To vote in state and local elections, the age and citizenship rules for federal elections largely apply, but there are exceptions. For example, a few cities let [noncitizens participate](#) in their local elections and a handful of states allow [17-year-olds to vote](#) in primaries.

Additionally, justice voters should be aware that in most states, a person's incarceration, criminal history, and sometimes [outstanding criminal-legal debt](#) will impact their voter eligibility. [Disenfranchising voters with felony convictions](#) is a modern day continuation of

our country's practice of prohibiting and marginalizing Black voters. Fortunately, justice voters have started to change these policies. There are several [resources](#) voters can use to keep up with this changing landscape.

It is also important to point out that, unlike most people incarcerated for felony convictions, [many people in jail are eligible to vote](#). Jails typically house people who have not been convicted of a crime or who are serving sentences for misdemeanors. There are [745,000 people in jail](#) on any given day, constituting a significant portion of eligible justice voters. They must be afforded the opportunity to vote by jail administrators who can facilitate [jail polling locations and absentee or mail-in ballots](#). This constituency that is directly impacted by the criminal-legal system can challenge the very policies that resulted in their incarceration.

What Is Justice Voting?

Justice voting is showing up as an electorate and being informed about the issues you care about.

Justice voting includes [get out the vote \(GOTV\) efforts](#) like getting everyone who is eligible registered to vote and driving voters to the polls. Justice voters make their voices heard at government body hearings and in constituent letters, op-eds, and other forums. They educate family members, peers, and their communities about the criminal-legal policies at stake, as well as which elected officials determine those policies.

To be clear, justice voting is not [partisan](#) or owned by a particular political party. Justice voters can and do support candidates affiliated with any political identity. In fact, there are lawmakers across the political spectrum who work independently and collectively to advance justice. Justice voting can happen in states considered both “[deep-red](#)” and “[dark-blue](#)” and all those in between. Justice voting is about understanding the importance of voting, what is on the ballot, and how it impacts your community.

Justice voters must pay attention to the details. They should look for meaningful debates and commitments that go beyond talking points. They should understand where their public officials and policymakers stand on police accountability, cash bail, marijuana laws, sentencing, voter enfranchisement, and the many other issues that impact our justice system and protect and advance justice.

When Is Justice Voting?

Justice voters have an opportunity to vote for justice in every election for which they are eligible. These opportunities go well beyond voting every four years during a presidential election or voting every two years in the midterm elections, when all U.S. representatives and one-third of U.S. senators are on the ballot. While justice voters should absolutely vote for the president and federal lawmakers, there are other office holders to choose as well.

Elections are not limited to the [first Tuesday in November](#) during even years and the [general elections](#) that most people are familiar with. There are also [primary elections](#), which can be partisan or nonpartisan, and are used to narrow a field of candidates for the general election. There are also significant elections during odd numbered years, with New Jersey and Virginia casting ballots for governor in the year after a presidential election, for example.

Justice voters should be aware of [special elections](#) that can happen at every level to fill unexpected vacancies. In fact, several [state special elections](#) took place during the last quarter of 2021. [Recall elections](#) are also permitted in 19 states and allow voters to remove an elected official from office before their term ends. For example, [Californians voted in a recall](#) election for their governor in September 2021.

[Where Are Justice Voters?](#)

Justice voters are in every community, city, and state across the country; they are everywhere that justice is on the ballot. In 2020, for example, justice voters [restored voting rights](#) to those on parole in California. And they [secured the creation or expansion of community-led police oversight boards](#) in cities including Portland, Oregon; Columbus, Ohio; and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

In 2022, justice voters will again have the opportunity to vote in all races in which they are eligible. The offices of governor, mayor, [prosecutor, sheriff](#), and other state and local elected officials will be on the ballot in 2022, along with those for the U.S. Congress. In recent years, some candidates at every level campaigned on justice issues. Upcoming elections will offer the same.

The collective efforts of justice voters are making a difference, with voters and lawmakers empowered throughout the country. Justice voters realize that what happens in [Illinois can influence midwestern neighbors](#), for example. They also appreciate that a [federal policy can instruct state and local laws](#); and often, [cities have to set an example](#) for the federal government.

[Why This Justice Toolkit?](#)

This toolkit is among the resources from organizations and outlets that will help you explore justice issues, including criminal-legal issues on the ballot. With these resources, justice voters will be better prepared to vote and educate communities about the importance of voting.



III.

Justice Voters' Top 10 Electeds

Elected officials at every level shape justice in our communities and the criminal-legal system. No matter how local or national the reach, nearly every elected office has some touch on policies that define our justice system. From directly shaping criminal statutes and determining criminal-legal system expenditures to appointing officials who have these responsibilities, justice voters should understand the role and responsibility of every office holder on the ballot. Below is a discussion of the city, county, state, and federal elected officials every justice voter should know:

1. District Attorney

A district attorney is a city or county's chief lawyer responsible for prosecuting criminal cases on behalf of the jurisdiction. In some states, they are called [state's attorneys](#), [county attorneys](#), or [solicitors](#). In [most states](#), chief prosecutors are elected and their [terms typically last](#) four years. Prosecutors are deemed [the most powerful figures](#) in the criminal-legal system as [they control](#) criminal charges, cash bail, evidence, and plea deals. Prosecutors' actions typically drive mass incarceration. They have the ability to [alter the criminal-legal system](#) by using their prosecutorial discretion.

2. Public Defender

A public defender is a city or county's chief lawyer responsible for representing people in criminal cases when they cannot afford to hire private counsel. This [right to counsel](#) is guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. Chief public defenders are [generally appointed](#) by an elected state official or commission. However, in a handful of states like Georgia and Florida, justice voters can elect their city's chief defender. Public defenders [represent approximately 80 percent](#) of all people accused of crimes, but they are under-resourced. They have far less power than prosecutors, but have sued local governments when limited resources violate clients' rights.

3. Sheriff

A sheriff is a [county's highest law enforcement officer](#). They are elected officials who take an oath to [protect and serve their communities](#) like other officers. Sheriffs differ from police chiefs in that chiefs are typically appointed by mayors and are accountable to cities instead of counties. But like chiefs, sheriffs have the ability to make arrests, serve warrants, and perform other traditional law enforcement functions. Sheriffs' more notable responsibility, however, is [managing the county jail](#) and those in pretrial detention. They control [access to the ballot](#) for those in jail during elections. Sheriffs also have discretion around [immigration enforcement](#) and [forfeiture practices](#).

4. Mayor

A mayor is a [city's highest elected official](#) and functions as its CEO. Mayors are generally elected or appointed by an elected city council. Most mayors serve four-year terms and about half are subject to term limits. Mayors appoint officials, [including police chiefs](#), who will determine police practices and accountability. In some cities, mayors appoint school board officials, who can work with them to [end school-to-prison pipeline](#) policies. Mayors also [propose city budgets](#) that fund police departments, jails, and other criminal-legal system components. Mayors can use their position to influence [police-community relationships](#), advance alternatives to incarceration, and support city ordinances on cash bail or marijuana, for example.

5. City Councilmember

A city councilmember [represents single or at-large districts](#) on a city's legislative body. They are [elected to a city council](#) in order to pass budgets, impose taxes, advance ordinances, and confirm agency heads on behalf of the city residents who elect them. City legislators work closely with mayors to advance an agenda and [sometimes have more authority than mayors](#) if the city council installs them. City councils have a direct impact on their constituents' daily lives, especially when it comes to public safety. For example, they can take action on police use of military weapons, the building of a new jail, and cash bail.

6. Governor

A governor serves as a state's [highest elected official](#). They are popularly elected in every state. As the chief executive officer, a governor's responsibilities and power are significant. They appoint agency leadership and, in some instances, judges. Governors approve budgets and have the authority to approve or veto legislation. In addition to veto authority, governors have [pardon power](#). Governors have used this extraordinary power on issues related to death sentences, drug convictions, and voting rights restoration, for example.

7. Attorney General

An attorney general is the [state's top legal officer](#). They are elected in the vast majority of states and provide legal advice to the state's agencies and legislature. They also advocate on behalf of the public interest. State attorneys general can [use their broad discretion](#) in performing these duties to hold criminal-legal system actors accountable and advance criminal-legal policies. For example, state attorneys general can use their discretion to prosecute police officers or sue police departments that engage in misconduct. They can also work with state legislators to advance legislation on police use of force.

8. Judge

A judge [presides over legal matters in a court of law](#). Judges can be [elected or appointed](#) by elected officials and [serve at every level](#) of government. In criminal courts, judges [oversee determinations of "guilty" or "not guilty"](#) for a person charged with a crime. In appellate courts, judges [interpret questions of law](#) and establish precedent for other courts to follow. When some people think about judges, they think about the U.S. Supreme Court, which is the country's highest court and [settles questions of criminal law](#) for the nation. However, also important are [local magistrate judges](#) who make [bail determinations](#) and [state trial court judges](#) who handle criminal cases, as well as [state Supreme Court justices](#) who have the final say on matters of state law.

9. State Legislator

A state legislator can serve as a state representative or state senator in a state's legislative body. They are generally [elected to a state's bicameral legislature](#) containing two separate chambers, a House and Senate, and [serve between two and four years](#). Nebraska is an exception to this structure with a [unicameral legislature](#), or just one chamber. State legislators set the state budget and provide oversight of executive branch programs and agencies. They can control how [much money gets spent on state prisons](#), for example. They also pass laws implicating a range of matters, [including criminal-legal transformation](#). State lawmakers have advanced bills on police accountability, cash bail, sentencing, and the death penalty.

10. Member of Congress

A member of Congress represents a congressional district as a [U.S. representative](#) or a state as a [U.S. senator](#) within the country's federal legislative body. Representatives are elected to two-year terms every even year. Senators are elected to six-year terms every even year, but with only one-third of Senate seats up during elections. The House initiates [federal spending](#), and the Senate [confirms presidential appointments](#), [including federal judges](#). Members can [advance bills transforming the federal criminal-legal system](#) and [incentivize states](#) to do the same. They also [oversee federal actors and agencies](#) like the U.S. attorney general and the Department of Justice.



IV.

Justice Issues

It is critically important to understand the roles that each elected and public official plays in the criminal-legal system — and it is equally as important to understand the issues. This will help you to ask questions and learn more about them as you engage through voting and other opportunities for civic engagement.

It can be overwhelming to [understand every single issue](#). We introduce a few below, but there are so many issues within the criminal-legal system that are important to understand and find out more about — and we encourage you to continue to educate yourself on these and other critical issues.

Policing

There are some alarming statistics: Police killings continue to average [about 1,000 each year](#) and disproportionately harm communities of color and people of color, particularly those with intersecting identities. [Half of all Black people with disabilities](#) will be arrested by the time they are 30. For [trans people who have had police encounters](#), one in five report being harassed by police, with 38 percent of Black trans people reporting such harassment.

Additionally, Black people are [3.5 times more likely](#) than White people to be killed by police. Black men have a [1-in-1,000 lifetime risk](#) of being killed by police. As a [leading cause of death for young Black men](#), police violence and racism are public health issues, a declaration that has been made by [public health organizations](#), [academics](#), and [cities](#).

Even with these unacceptable statistics, transforming police practices across the board is a challenge. The House [passed a bill](#) in the aftermath of [George Floyd's death](#) in June 2020, [and again](#) in April 2021. However, the Senate did not act after a bipartisan group of federal lawmakers recently called it quits around police legislation negotiations. In September 2021, the U.S. attorney general [banned federal law enforcement's use of chokeholds and no-knock warrants](#), which were policies included in the House bill.

Fortunately, state lawmakers have had more success advancing police accountability measures. Across the country, governors have collectively [signed 243 bills](#) intended to reduce police violence. New laws [banning chokeholds](#), [restricting no-knock warrants](#), and [limiting other uses of force](#) are among the policies fought for by activists, advocates, and justice voters.

But as progress is made, efforts to undermine criminal-legal transformation are prevalent. From [anti-protest legislation](#) to [police officer hate crimes bills](#), justice voters must hold onto hard fought gains. They must continue the push for local, state, and congressional action in the upcoming elections.

Cash Bail

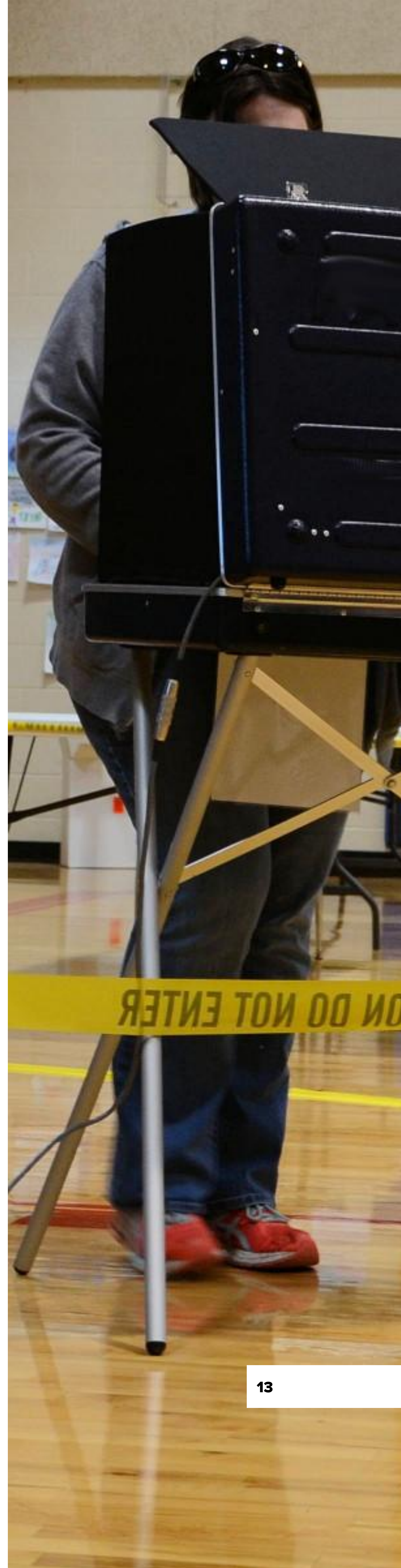
More than half a million people in jail on any given day are there because they cannot afford to pay a monetary bail. The [median annual income of people in jail is \\$15,109](#). Money bail has a [disproportionate impact on people of color](#), with young Black men 50 percent more likely to be detained pretrial than White men. When people are detained pretrial, [they can lose](#) their children, homes, jobs, and community ties.

Marijuana Policy

More than [1.5 million people were arrested](#) for drug offenses in 2019. About [40 percent of those arrests were for marijuana](#). And of marijuana arrests, more than [90 percent were for personal possession](#). Black people [are almost four times more likely](#) to be arrested for marijuana than White people. They are also [more likely to be incarcerated](#) for marijuana offenses despite a lawful and thriving marijuana industry in many parts of the country.

[In 37 states and Washington, D.C., marijuana is allowed](#) for recreational or medicinal purposes. During the 2020 election, voters in Arizona, Montana, New Jersey, and South Dakota [approved legalization](#). Voters in other states, including Arkansas, Missouri, and Ohio, are trying to [follow suit in 2022](#).

In addition to supporting state referendums, justice voters should ask federal, state, and local lawmakers what their positions are on marijuana policy.



Sentencing Laws

Current lengthy sentences, three strikes laws, and other [mandatory minimum sentencing laws](#) [have](#) increased jail and prison populations [by 500 percent](#) in the last 40 years. [Half of the federal prison population, more than 2 million people](#), is made up of people convicted of drug offenses.

Additionally, [women now make up the fastest growing](#) incarcerated population, increasing by 700 percent over the past 40 years.

[Mandatory minimum policies](#) of the 1980s grew the federal prison population. And the [1994 federal crime bill](#) contributed to this growth.

Voter Enfranchisement

[Over 5 million people](#) in the U.S. [are disenfranchised](#) because of a felony conviction. One out of 44 adults, or 2 percent of the total eligible voting population, is disenfranchised. For Black people, this statistic is one in 16, which means [Black people of voting age are disenfranchised](#) at a rate almost four times greater than White people. And even though those in jail who have not been convicted of a crime or a felony are eligible to vote, there are obstacles to exercising that right, making disenfranchisement numbers and disparities much higher.

[California and Florida](#) voters recently restored voting rights to people with criminal histories, though in Florida [fines and fees associated with the felony conviction must be paid](#) before the right can be exercised. These gains follow efforts in other states to ensure the right to vote regardless of status within the criminal-legal system. But the laws on this issue [vary from state to state](#), as [all voting is local](#), so justice voters must stay the course until full enfranchisement is achieved for all.

[In some states](#), a person's voting rights are automatically restored upon release from prison; in others, those rights are returned only after petitioning the government. People on probation or parole can vote in certain states; in others they cannot. Only Maine, Vermont, and Washington, D.C. do not consider a person's criminal history at all, allowing incarcerated people to vote.

In addition to voter disenfranchisement, justice voters must be [vigilant for policies criminalizing voting](#)-related activity. While many state lawmakers have expanded voter access, officials have restricted the right to vote through [30 laws in 18 states](#). For example, Georgia lawmakers made it a crime to give food and water to voters waiting in line to cast a ballot.

While state lawmakers and the outcomes of referendums largely dictate voter enfranchisement policies, justice voters can hold other officials accountable here as well. For example, elected judges on North Carolina's Supreme Court have a say in the voting rights of [North Carolinians with felonies](#). In states like Kentucky and Virginia, state constitutions [require the governor](#) to restore voting rights.

V.

Vote for Me, Vote for Justice in 2022

Every state will have justice on the ballot in 2022. From district attorney to U.S. senator, there are races at every level in which justice voters should engage. Below is a chart to help justice voters begin to navigate offices on the ballot in 2022. Importantly, this chart also indicates how many people in a state are disenfranchised due to felony convictions, as well as the states where the governor can restore those voting rights.

State	District Attorney	Chief Defender	Sheriff	Mayor	City Council	Governor	State AG	State Supreme Court	State House / Senate	U.S. Congress	#Barred Voters*
AL	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	328,198
AK				X	X	X		X	X	X	5,541
AZ				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	233,816
AR	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	87,187
CA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	243,181
CO			X	X	X	X	X		X	X	22,607
CT				X	X	X	X		X	X	20,124
DE			X	X	X		X		X	X	11,524
DC				X	X		X		X	X	0
FL	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1,132,493
GA	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	275,089
HI				X	X				X	X	4,899
ID				X	X		X	X	X	X	35,200
IL			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	39,005

Chart Key:

X Office is on the ballot in 2022.

* Number of disenfranchised voters as of October 30, 2020, [according to The Sentencing Project](#).

■ Voting rights are not lost upon incarceration for felony conviction.

■ Voting rights are restored upon release from custody.

■ Voting rights are restored upon completion of incarceration and parole.

■ Voting rights are restored upon completion of incarceration and probation.

■ Voting rights are restored upon completion of incarceration, probation, and payment of fines and fees.

■ Voting rights are restored only by executive clemency.

State	District Attorney	Chief Defender	Sheriff	Mayor	City Council	Governor	State AG	State Supreme Court	State House / Senate	U.S. Congress	#Barred Voters*
IN	X		X	X	X			X	X	X	30,659
IA	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	34,227
KS				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	21,256
KY			X	X	X			X	X	X	197,672
LA				X	X			X		X	76,924
ME	X		X	X	X	X			X	X	0
MD	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	18,778
MA	X			X	X	X	X		X	X	8,956
MI				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	38,819
MN	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	64,700
MS				X	X					X	235,152
MO	X			X	X			X	X	X	95,485
MT	X		X	X	X			X	X	X	4,221
NE	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	22,396
NV	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	14,397
NH			X	X	X	X			X	X	2,905
NJ			X	X	X					X	19,896
NM			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	18,451
NY	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	44,343
NC	X		X	X	X			X	X	X	83,837
ND	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	1,821
OH				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	50,402
OK	X			X	X		X	X	X	X	56,995
OR	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	15,871
PA				X	X	X			X	X	48,823
RI				X	X	X	X		X	X	2,588
SC	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	44,584
SD			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	13,339
TN	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	564,804
TX	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	500,474
UT	X		X	X	X			X	X	X	7,987
VT	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	0
VA				X	X					X	366,065
WA	X		X	X	X			X	X	X	45,090
WV				X	X				X	X	17,274
WI			X	X	X	X	X		X	X	69,344
WY	X		X	X	X			X	X	X	11,403

Chart Key:

- X

Office is on the ballot in 2022.
- *

Number of disenfranchised voters as of October 30, 2020, [according to The Sentencing Project.](#)
- Voting rights are not lost upon incarceration for felony conviction.
- Voting rights are restored upon release from custody.
- Voting rights are restored upon completion of incarceration and parole.
- Voting rights are restored upon completion of incarceration and probation.
- Voting rights are restored upon completion of incarceration, probation, and payment of fines and fees.
- Voting rights are restored only by executive clemency.

VI.

10 State Profiles in Justice



ARIZONA

Justice on the Ballot

1. **County Attorney:** [Arizona county attorneys](#) are on the ballot in 2024.
2. **Public Defender:** [Arizona chief defenders](#) are appointed by a County Board of Supervisors.
3. **Sheriff:** [Arizona sheriffs](#) are on the ballot in 2024.
4. **Mayor:**
 - Phoenix: [Phoenix's mayor](#) is on the ballot in 2024.
 - Tucson: [Tucson's mayor](#) is on the ballot in 2024.
 - Mesa: [Mesa's mayor](#) is on the ballot in 2024.
5. **City Councilmember:**
 - Phoenix: [Phoenix city councilmembers](#) are on the ballot in 2022.
 - Tucson: [Tucson city councilmembers](#) are on the ballot in 2023.
 - Mesa: [Mesa city councilmembers](#) are on the ballot in 2022.
6. **Governor:** [Arizona governor](#) is on the ballot in 2022.
7. **Attorney General:** [Arizona attorney general](#) is on the ballot in 2022.
8. **Judge:** [Arizona Supreme Court justices](#) (three seats) are on the ballot in 2022.
9. **State Legislator:** [Arizona senators and representatives](#) are on the ballot in 2022.
10. **Congress:** [U.S. senator](#) (one seat) and [U.S. representatives](#) are on the ballot in 2022.

Why Vote Justice: Arizona Facts and Stats

1. **Policing:** AZ police shot 627 people and killed half of them from 2011 to 2018.
2. **Bail:** AZ's daily jail population averages 1,680 and more than 1 million are admitted per year.
3. **Marijuana:** In AZ marijuana arrests averaged 15,000 per year before legalization.
4. **Sentencing:** AZ incarcerates 42,000+ people, the fifth highest rate in the country.
5. **Voting:** AZ disenfranchises more than 220,000 people with felony convictions.



Justice on the Ballot

1. **District Attorney:** California district attorneys are on the ballot in 2022. [Except in Los Angeles (2024) and San Francisco (2023)].
2. **Public Defender:** California chief defenders are appointed by county supervisors. [Except in San Francisco (2024)].
3. **Sheriff:** California sheriffs are on the ballot in 2022. [Except in San Francisco (2023)].
4. **Mayor:**
 - Los Angeles: Los Angeles mayor is on the ballot in 2022.
 - San Diego: San Diego mayor is on the ballot in 2024.
 - San Jose: San Jose mayor is on the ballot in 2022.
5. **City Councilmember:**
 - Los Angeles: Los Angeles councilmembers are on the ballot in 2022.
 - San Diego: San Diego councilmembers are on the ballot in 2022.
 - San Jose: San Jose councilmembers are on the ballot in 2022.
6. **Governor:** California governor is on the ballot in 2022.
7. **Attorney General:** California attorney general is on the ballot in 2022.
8. **Judge:** California Supreme Court justices (three seats) are on the ballot in 2022.
9. **State Legislator:** California senators (20 seats) and representatives are on the ballot in 2022.
10. **Congress:** U.S. senator (one seat) and U.S. representatives are on the ballot in 2022.

Why Vote Justice: California Facts and Stats

1. **Policing:** CA police kill between 100-200 people each year and 60 percent are Black or Latino/a.
2. **Bail:** CA sends 368,000 people to jail each year and 71 percent of those incarcerated are of color.
3. **Marijuana:** In CA about 113,000 people need their marijuana convictions expunged.
4. **Sentencing:** In CA 2,000+ people remain sentenced under a three-strikes law despite its repeal.
5. **Voting:** CA restored voting rights to those on parole in 2020 but not those incarcerated.

Justice on the Ballot

1. **State Attorney:** Florida states attorney (two circuits) are on the ballot in 2022. [Remaining circuits (2024)].
2. **Public Defender:** Florida chief defenders (one circuit) are on the ballot in 2022.
3. **Sheriff:** Florida sheriffs are on the ballot in 2024. [Except Duval (2023) and Miami-Dade (appointed)].
4. **Mayor:**
 - Jacksonville: Jacksonville mayor is on the ballot in 2023.
 - Miami: Miami mayor is on the ballot in 2025.
 - Tampa: Tampa mayor is on the ballot in 2023.
5. **City Councilmember:**
 - Jacksonville: Jacksonville city councilmembers are on the ballot in 2023.
 - Miami: Miami city commissioners are on the ballot in 2023.
 - Tampa: Tampa city councilmembers are on the ballot in 2023.
6. **Florida governor** is on the ballot in 2022.
7. **Attorney General:** Florida attorney general is on the ballot in 2022.
8. **Judge:** Florida Supreme Court justices (five seats) are on the ballot in 2022.
9. **State Legislator:** Florida senators and representatives are on the ballot in 2022.
10. **Congress:** U.S. senator (one seat) and U.S. representatives are on the ballot in 2022.

Why Vote Justice: Florida Facts and Stats

1. **Policing:** FL police shot 627 people and killed about half between 2009 and 2014.
2. **Bail:** FL jails 53,000 people each year and Black and Latino/a are 60 percent of those incarcerated.
3. **Marijuana:** FL law makes possession of less than an ounce of marijuana a felony.
4. **Sentencing:** FL has more than 100 mandatory minimums on the books.
5. **Voting:** In FL, criminal fines and fees are preventing 900,000 people from voting.

Justice on the Ballot

1. **District Attorney:** Georgia district attorneys (seven counties) are on the ballot in 2022. (Atlantic, Douglas, Enotah, Northeastern, Paulding, Rockdale, Waycross).
2. **Public Defender:** Georgia chief defenders are appointed by the Public Defender Council.
3. **Sheriff:** Georgia sheriffs are on the ballot in 2024.
4. **Mayor:**
 - Atlanta: Atlanta mayor is on the ballot in 2025.
 - Augustus: Augustus mayor is on the ballot in 2022.
 - Columbus: Columbus mayor is on the ballot in 2022.
5. **City Councilmember:**
 - Atlanta: Atlanta city councilmembers are on the ballot in 2023.
 - Augusta: Augusta commissioners are on the ballot in 2022.
 - Columbus: Columbus councilmembers are on the ballot in 2022.
6. **Governor:** Georgia governor is on the ballot in 2022.
7. **Attorney General:** Georgia attorney general is on the ballot in 2022.
8. **Judge:** Georgia Supreme Court justices (four seats) are on the ballot in 2022.
9. **State Legislator:** Georgia senators and representatives are on the ballot in 2022.
10. **Congress:** U.S. senator (one seat) and U.S. representatives are on the ballot in 2022.

Why Vote Justice: Georgia Facts and Stats

1. **Policing:** GA police shot about 100 people and killed half in 2018.
2. **Bail:** GA jails about 39,000 people and 67 percent of those incarcerated are Black or Latino/a.
3. **Marijuana:** GA arrested almost 26,000 people for marijuana possession in 2016.
4. **Sentencing:** In GA, 55,000 people are in prison serving an average 25-year sentence.
5. **Voting:** GA disenfranchises 200,000+ people with criminal histories.

Justice on the Ballot

1. **District Attorney:** Nevada district attorneys are on the ballot in 2022.
2. **Public Defender:** Nevada chief defenders are appointed by Indigent Defense Services.
3. **Sheriff:** Nevada sheriffs are on the ballot in 2022.
4. **Mayor:**
 - Las Vegas: Las Vegas mayor is on the ballot in 2024.
 - Henderson: Henderson mayor is on the ballot in 2022.
 - Reno: Reno mayor is on the ballot in 2022.
5. **City Councilmember:**
 - Las Vegas: Las Vegas councilmembers are on the ballot in 2022.
 - Henderson: Henderson city councilmembers are on the ballot in 2022.
 - Reno: Reno city councilmembers are on the ballot in 2022.
6. **Attorney General:** Nevada attorney general is on the ballot in 2022.
7. **Governor:** Nevada governor is on the ballot in 2022.
8. **Judge:** Nevada Supreme Court justices (two seats) are on the ballot in 2022.
9. **State Legislator:** Nevada senators (11 seats) and representatives are on the ballot in 2022.
10. **Congress:** U.S. senator (one seat) and U.S. representatives are on the ballot in 2022.

Why Vote Justice: Nevada Facts and Stats

1. **Policing:** NV residents registered 5,301 complaints against police from 2016 to 2019.
2. **Bail:** NV jails 38,000 different people each year.
3. **Marijuana:** In NV, people of color are just 18 percent of marijuana industry license owners.
4. **Sentencing:** A NV three strikes law requires a 25-year sentence for three previous felonies.
5. **Voting:** NV restored rights upon release, but 13,000+ in prison remain disenfranchised.

Justice on the Ballot

1. **District Attorney:** New York district attorneys (three seats) are on the ballot in 2022.
2. **Public Defender:** New York chief defenders are appointed by Indigent Legal Services.
3. **Sheriff:** New York sheriffs (18 seats) are on the ballot in 2022.
4. **Mayor:**
 - New York City: New York City mayor is on the ballot in 2025.
 - Buffalo: Buffalo mayor is on the ballot in 2025.
 - Rochester: Rochester mayor is on the ballot in 2025.
5. **City Councilmember:**
 - New York City: New York city councilmember races are on the ballot in 2023.
 - Buffalo: Buffalo common councilmember races are on the ballot in 2023.
 - Rochester: Rochester city councilmember races are on the ballot in 2023.
6. **Governor:** New York governor is on the ballot in 2022.
7. **Attorney General:** New York attorney general is on the ballot in 2022.
8. **Judge:** The New York Court of Appeals is the state's highest court and judges are appointed by the governor.
9. **State Legislator:** New York senators and representatives are on the ballot in 2022.
10. **Congress:** U.S. senator (one seat) and U.S. representatives are on the ballot in 2022.

Why Vote Justice: New York Facts and Stats

1. **Policing:** NYPD killed 105 people between 2010 and 2015 and made 13,500 stops in 2019.
2. **Bail:** NY jails 27,000 people and more than 50 percent of those incarcerated are Black.
3. **Marijuana:** In NY, people of color made up 94 percent of marijuana arrests and summonses.
4. **Sentencing:** In NY, one-fifth of the prison population is serving a life sentence.
5. **Voting:** NY restores voting rights upon release, but 50,000 in prison remain disenfranchised.

Justice on the Ballot

1. **District Attorney:** Ohio district attorneys are on the ballot in 2024.
2. **Public Defender:** Ohio chief defenders are appointed by the Public Defender Commission.
3. **Sheriff:** Ohio sheriffs are on the ballot in 2024.
(Except in Cuyahoga County where the sheriff is not elected.)
4. **Mayor:**
 - Columbus: Columbus mayor is on the ballot in 2023.
 - Cleveland: Cleveland mayor is on the ballot in 2025.
 - Cincinnati: Cincinnati mayor is on the ballot in 2025.
5. **City Councilmember:**
 - Columbus: Columbus city councilmembers are on the ballot in 2023.
 - Cleveland: Cleveland city councilmembers are on the ballot in 2023.
 - Cincinnati: Cincinnati city councilmembers are on the ballot in 2023.
6. **Governor:** Ohio governor is on the ballot in 2022.
7. **Attorney General:** Ohio attorney general is on the ballot in 2022.
8. **Judge:** Ohio Supreme Court justices (three seats) are on the ballot in 2022.
9. **State Legislator:** Ohio state senators (17 seats) and representatives are on the ballot in 2022.
10. **Congress:** U.S. senator (one seat) and U.S. representatives are on the ballot in 2022.

Why Vote Justice: Ohio Facts and Stats

1. **Policing:** Columbus, OH, police have killed the third most children in the country.
2. **Bail:** OH books 150,000 people into jail each year.
3. **Marijuana:** In OH, 27,000+ people were arrested for marijuana possession in 2016.
4. **Sentencing:** In OH, Blacks make up 12 percent of the population but 43 percent of those in prison.
5. **Voting:** OH restores rights upon release, but 51,000 in prison remain disenfranchised.

Justice on the Ballot

1. **District Attorney:** North Carolina district attorneys (four seats) are on the ballot in 2022.
2. **Public Defender:** North Carolina chief defenders are appointed by Superior Court judges.
3. **Sheriff:** North Carolina sheriffs are on the ballot in 2024.
4. **Mayor:**
 - Charlotte: Charlotte mayor is on the ballot in 2022.
 - Raleigh: Raleigh mayor is on the ballot in 2022.
 - Greensboro: Greensboro mayor is on the ballot in 2022.
5. **City Councilmember:**
 - Charlotte: Charlotte city councilmembers are on the ballot in 2022.
 - Raleigh: Raleigh city councilmembers are on the ballot in 2022.
 - Greensboro: Greensboro city councilmembers are on the ballot in 2022.
6. **Governor:** North Carolina governor is on the ballot in 2024.
7. **Attorney General:** North Carolina attorney general is on the ballot in 2024.
8. **Judge:** North Carolina Supreme Court justices (two seats) are on the ballot in 2022.
9. **State Legislator:** North Carolina senators and representatives are on the ballot in 2022.
10. **Congress:** U.S. senator (one seat) and U.S. representatives are on the ballot in 2022.

Why Vote Justice: North Carolina Facts and Stats

1. **Policing:** In NC, Blacks are 2x more likely to be killed by police than Whites.
2. **Bail:** NC books 128,000 people into jail each year and averages 36,000 in jail every day.
3. **Marijuana:** In NC, Blacks are 3x more likely to be arrested for marijuana than Whites.
4. **Sentencing:** In NC, women in prison have increased 386 percent to 2,600+ since 1980.
5. **Voting:** NC has yet to restore voting rights for 56,000 people no longer incarcerated.

Justice on the Ballot

1. **Circuit Solicitor:** South Carolina solicitors (six circuits) are on the ballot in 2022.
2. **Public Defender:** South Carolina chief defenders are appointed by the Commission on Indigent Defense.
3. **Sheriff:** South Carolina sheriffs (seven counties) are on the ballot in 2022.
4. **Mayor:**
 - Charleston: Charleston mayor is on the ballot in 2023.
 - Columbia: Columbia mayor is on the ballot in 2025.
 - North Charleston: North Charleston mayor is on the ballot in 2023.
5. **City Councilmember:**
 - Charleston: Charleston city councilmembers are on the ballot in 2023.
 - Columbia: Columbia councilmembers are on the ballot in 2023.
 - North Charleston: North Charleston councilmembers are on the ballot in 2023.
6. **Governor:** South Carolina governor is on the ballot in 2022.
7. **Attorney General:** South Carolina attorney general is on the ballot in 2022.
8. **Judge:** South Carolina Supreme Court justices are appointed through the General Assembly.
9. **State Legislator:** South Carolina state senators (23 seats) and representatives are on the ballot in 2022.
10. **Congress:** U.S. senator (one seat) and U.S. representatives are on the ballot in 2022.

Why Vote Justice: South Carolina Facts and Stats

1. **Policing:** SC police killed 79 people over a five-year window and 43 percent were Black.
2. **Bail:** SC jails 89,000 people each year and averages a daily jail population of 11,000.
3. **Marijuana:** SC has the second highest rate for marijuana arrests in the country.
4. **Sentencing:** SC has drug mandatory minimums and requires 85 percent of sentences to be served.
5. **Voting:** SC disenfranchises 38,000 people for both felony and some misdemeanor offenses.

Justice on the Ballot

1. **District Attorney:** Wisconsin district attorneys are on the ballot in 2024.
2. **Public Defender:** Wisconsin chief defenders are appointed by the Public Defender Board.
3. **Sheriff:** Wisconsin sheriffs are on the ballot in 2022.
4. **Mayor:**
 - Milwaukee: Milwaukee mayor is on the ballot in 2024.
 - Madison: Madison mayor is on the ballot in 2023.
 - Greenbay: Greenbay mayor is on the ballot in 2023.
5. **City Councilmember:**
 - Milwaukee: Milwaukee city councilmembers are on the ballot in 2024.
 - Madison: Madison city councilmembers are on the ballot in 2023.
 - Greenbay: Greenbay city councilmembers are on the ballot in 2023.
6. **Governor:** Wisconsin governor is on the ballot in 2022.
7. **Attorney General:** Wisconsin attorney general is on the ballot in 2022.
8. **Judge:** Wisconsin Supreme Court justice (one seat) is on the ballot in 2023.
9. **State Legislator:** Wisconsin state senators (16 seats) and representatives are on the ballot in 2022.
10. **Congress:** U.S. senator (one seat) and U.S. representatives are on the ballot in 2022.

Why Vote Justice: Wisconsin Facts and Stats

1. **Policing:** Milwaukee, WI, police average 200,000 stops and stop Blacks 6x more than Whites.
2. **Bail:** WI jails 129,000 people each year and averages a daily jail population of 13,000.
3. **Marijuana:** In WI, Black people are convicted of marijuana possession 4x more than Whites.
4. **Sentencing:** In WI, Black people make up more than 50 percent of the prison population, while only 6.8 percent of the state's general population.
5. **Voting:** WI disenfranchises 62,000+ people who have been released from prison.



VII.

Conclusion: Next Steps to Become a Justice Voter

Justice voters share their vision for justice and vote at the local, state, and federal levels, and they work toward a vision of justice that respects the humanity, dignity, and human rights of all people.

Public officials determine the policies around issues like policing, bail, marijuana, sentencing, and voting rights restoration. With this understanding, here are seven immediate JUSTICE steps to become a justice voter:

1. Join the voter rolls

Get registered to vote by using the various resources available, including [TurboVote](#) and [Rock the Vote](#). Understand how a [felony conviction may impact the right to vote](#), and remember those who remain disenfranchised when securing a spot on voter rolls.

2. Understand the issues

[Learn the ballot](#) and the issues and candidates on it. Engage in your community and gather resources to educate others about your priority issues. Understand the justice agendas of office holders and candidates.

3. Share resources

Provide the toolkit to familial and community networks. Pastors can share the toolkit with their church congregations, [college student leadership](#) can share with their peers, organizers can share at community meetings, and activists can share with their allies.

4. **Teach others**

In addition to [sharing resources, educate and engage others](#) directly. Unite other groups in this effort and lead community teach-ins to strategize and advance justice.

5. **Inform the debate**

[Challenge competing narratives](#) on transforming the criminal-legal system. Testify at government body hearings, send constituent letters, publish op-eds, and take other actions to challenge the status quo and offer public safety alternatives.

6. **Commit to voting**

[Identify your polling place](#) and vote. Exercise the right to vote for justice on the ballot and [protect that sacred right](#). Vote in every election and vote the whole ballot. Take other eligible voters to the polls on Election Day and increase the likelihood that we move toward a just nation that respects the humanity, dignity, and human rights of all people.

7. **Ensure accountability**

[Hold elected officials accountable](#) for change sought. Civic responsibility does not stop after electing someone to office. Criminal-legal transformation will happen when justice voters vote and then stay the course with their vision for justice.





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