



**Native Vote Alliance of Minnesota  
and the Minnesota Participation Project**  
*Mobilizing and Empowering Native People*



### **Registering Ex-Felons to Vote**

*When a person is convicted of a felony they lose their civil rights. What many people don't know is that as soon as they complete their sentence, including probation, their civil rights are reinstated. This issue is an important one, we ask that you take this information and spread it far and wide to anyone who may be interested.*

- Minnesota statute says that a convicted felon loses his or her civil rights, including the right to vote. It also stipulates that a felon's civil rights are automatically reinstated when he or she completes their sentence. Completing a sentence means that they have completed all parole, probation, and any other terms of their sentence. This is also known as being "off-paper". Once a person completes their sentence they have the right to vote. See Minnesota statute 609.165 for more details.
- An ex-felon can register to vote at anytime, including using same day registration. When they go to the polls, there may or may not be the word "challenged" next to their name on the voter rolls. If they are challenged, they should speak to the head elections judge. The judge may ask some questions, and then will have the person take a brief oath assuring the judge that they have the right to vote. Once they have taken the oath they are allowed to vote. See Minnesota Statute 204C.12 for more details.
- A document sent to an ex-felon notifying them that their civil rights have been reinstated may speed up the process, but this IS NOT REQUIRED.
- If a person is at all unsure whether or not they have completed their sentence they should check with their parole officer or the county. It is a felony if they register to vote before they have completed their sentence and probation and their civil rights have been reinstated.
- If they have completed their sentence they should register and vote!