



Shelby County Election Commission

Restoring Voting Rights

Tennessee law allows most people to restore their voting rights after they have committed a felony. If your conviction was for murder, rape, or treason you will probably not be able to vote in Tennessee. If your conviction was expunged, then answer no to the felony question on the voter registration form.

Before starting the process, please answer these questions:

1. Have you been released from prison or jail and have you finished probation?
2. Have you paid your court costs and any restitution ordered?
3. Are you current on your child support if you were ordered to pay child support?

If the answer to any of the three questions is no, then you will not be able to restore your right to vote at this time.

However, if you answer yes, then here are the steps to obtain a Certificate of Restoration (COR).

1. Get one form for each conviction. **You do not fill out the form yourself.**
2. Take the form to the correct agency.
3. Mail or bring the form to the Shelby County Election Commission along with a voter registration application that you have completed.
4. We will send the form to the State for their approval.
5. If the State approves it, we will register you to vote.
6. If approved, you will receive a voter registration card in the mail. If not approved, you will receive a letter explaining why.

The Certificate of Restoration only allows you to vote. If you want to run for public office, you will need a court order, which is a different process.

To get the Certificate of Restoration completed, go to:

If you were convicted of a state offense in
Shelby County:
201 Poplar
4th Floor
Phone: 222-3375

If you were convicted of a federal offense:
167 N Main Street
Room 234
Phone: 495-1400

If your conviction was in another state, the form will need to be completed in the county in that state where you were convicted.

Questions? Call us at: (901) 222-1200 and select 1 from the menu.