

Take Action:

Endorse Rights Restoration

in Massachusetts!

Prison-based disenfranchisement has no place in a modern, racially equitable democracy.

We invite elected/appointed officials, organizations, and individuals to endorse rights restoration for all incarcerated people in Massachusetts.

How to Support:

Organizations + individuals can endorse at:

bit.ly/zero-disenfranchisement-ma

Elected + appointed officials can endorse at:

bit.ly/zero-disenfranchisement-electeds



We are led by the African American Coalition Committee (AACC), who work to restore and protect and access voting rights and dismantle barriers to racial equity, from behind the wall in MCI-Norfolk.

Want to learn more or ask about other ways to get involved? Email: info@dbbcma.org

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Rights Restoration in Massachusetts - Basic Facts

Sen. Liz Miranda and Sen Adam Gomez, S. 8; Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven, H. 26

- Massachusetts disproportionately incarcerates people of color, so while the state is 18.2% people of color, 58% (or 4,982) of people disenfranchised due to imprisonment are people of color.
- Incarcerated activists in MCI-Norfolk organized voter registration drives and civic engagement initiatives throughout the 1980s and 90s.
- On November 7, 2000, by a 2 to 1 margin, Massachusetts disenfranchised its prisoners with a constitutional amendment called Question 2. Question 2 marked **the first time that the Massachusetts constitution has been amended to take away rights from a group of people.**
- Organizers on both sides of the wall have pushed back and organized around incarcerated political representation and participation. The Democracy Behind Bars Coalition came together and has been organizing since summer 2020. Our wins are collective, and only possible due to support from endorsing and leading organizations, including: Families for Justice as Healing, The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls - MA, Healing Our Lands, Inc, the ACLU of Massachusetts, Prisoners Legal Services, The Real Cost of Prisons Project, Emancipation Initiative, Common Cause Massachusetts, MOCHA, MassVOTE, the Massachusetts Voter Table, The Sentencing, Project, Neighbor2Neighbor, Decarcerate Western Massachusetts, and more.
- Together, we passed legislation in the 2021-22 session, filed by then Rep Liz Miranda, Rep Chynah Tyler, and Senator Adam Hinds, that will enable incarcerated eligible voters in the Commonwealth to cast a counted ballot, and improve registration rates and access among returning citizens.
- Coupled with the Jail-Based Voting provisions passed with the VOTES Act in 2022, the Rights Restoration Bills would mean that about 8,234 individuals regain the ability to vote.

Endorsing Groups Include: Union of Minority Neighborhoods; Real Cost of Prisons Project ;Union of Minority Neighborhoods; Winning Writers ;New England Innocence Project ;Cape Verdean Social ;Workers Association; The Real Cost of Prisons Project; New Vision Organization, Inc; Disability Policy Consortium; THRIVE Communities ;Everyday Boston; Explanations From Exile; GREATER BOSTON LEGAL SERVICES; Progressive Massachusetts; Prisoners' Legal Services of Massachusetts; DefundNPD; Prison Policy Initiative; Justice 4 Housing Inc; Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc.; Campaign Legal Center; Lift Every Vote; Muslim Justice League