Voting Rights and Returning Citizens

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Racial History of Felony Disenfranchisement

- Increased significantly after the Civil War
- The policy expanded in conjunction with the Black Codes/Jim Crow which established severe penalties for petty crimes targeted towards Black Americans.
- Prison gerrymandering

Racial Impact of Felony Disenfranchisement

- 2.2 million African
 Americans, or 7.7% of
 black adults, are
 disenfranchised,
 compared to 1.8% of the
 non-African American
 population.
- Given current rates of incarceration, three in ten of the next generation of black men can expect to be disenfranchised at some point in their lifetime.

First District states where voting rights are restored automatically after release from prison

- New Jersey (13% Black population)
- Pennsylvania (11.13% Black population)
- Connecticut-12% Black population (and discharge from parole)
- New York (24.27% Black population)
- Massachusetts (13%)
- Rhode Island (5.83%)
- New Hampshire (1.1%)

First District states where people who are convicted of certain felonies are permanently disenfranchised. People convicted of election offenses are disenfranchised for 10 years following their sentences.

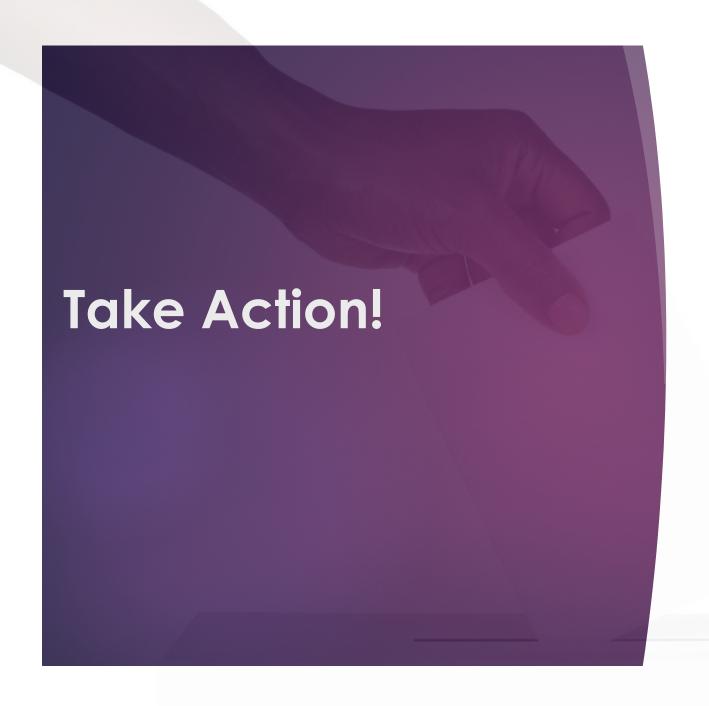
 Delaware (21.4% Black population)

First District states where there has never been disenfranchisement for people with criminal convictions.

- Vermont (1.4% Black population)
- Maine (1.3% Black population)

In many states you will need to re-register!

- Check with your department of state website.
- Get state specific assistance from: Local NAACP, ACLU, & League of Women Voters.
- MOST STATES PEOPLE IN JAIL CAN VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT!!



- Get up to date on state specific information on felony disenfranchisement.
 - https://www.brennancenter.org/ our-work/research-reports/ criminal-disenfranchisement-lawsacross-united-states
 - https://theappeal.org/politicalreport/disenfranchisement-states/
- As a church consider technical assistance for people returning home getting registered.
- Start a policy campaign to restore voting rights to people in prison.
- Push for in jail voting mobilization and education efforts.