

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT RESTORING VOTING RIGHTS

THE AMENDMENT WOULD:

Restore voting rights to all people who have completed their prison sentences.



Supported by the Virginia bishops.

The proposal was **approved** by the General Assembly in 2025. If it passes the **legislature again in 2026** – and is approved by Virginia voters on a ballot – **it would become law.**

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us, “It is necessary that all participate...in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person.... As far as possible, citizens should take an active part in *public life*” (nos. 1913-1915).

- Enabling individuals, upon release, to resume taking an active part in voting decisions **affirms their dignity.**
- It provides them a **second chance** to fulfill their duty to participate in promoting the common good.
- It enables them to have a say in decisions that **affect them, their families and their communities.**
- Virginia is the **only state** in which the Governor alone decides whether to restore an individual’s voting rights.
- The U.S. Bishops have stated, “[W]e must welcome ex-offenders back into society as full participating members, to the extent feasible, and support their right to vote.”*

WHAT ELSE IS AT STAKE?

Join the Virginia Catholic Conference’s advocacy network and learn more about the two other proposed amendments including the **Extreme Constitutional Amendment on Abortion:** vacatholic.org/ConstitutionalAmendments

