

Have you heard about

HOUSE BILL 39

Voting In Prison



What is House Bill 39?

If passed, House Bill 39, (HB 39) would restore voting rights to people post-conviction in prison. It would provide the roughly 30,000 people in Illinois prisons access to the ballot.

Learn more about the fight to restore voting rights to Illinoisans in prison

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55%
OF PEOPLE
INCARCERATED IN
ILLINOIS ARE BLACK

80%
OF WOMEN
INCARCERATED IN
ILLINOIS ARE
MOTHERS

23%
OF VETERANS
INCARCERATED IN
ILLINOIS HAVE 38-LIFE
SENTENCES



Chicago
Votes 

Why should people in prison be able to vote? ● ● ●

- Ninety-five percent of people in prison return to their communities. Reentry can be a difficult process, but having strong ties to the community increases the chances of success. **Civic engagement, specifically voting, increases the ability for reintegration, reducing recidivism, and making communities safer.**
- People in prison have families on the outside. **Eighty percent of women in Illinois prisons are mothers.** The families of those in prison are impacted by the decisions made by elected officials; therefore, people in prison should be able to influence the electoral process.
- The needs of the disenfranchised are often not considered by elected officials—so **they have no leverage to push candidates to back issues they care about** like free education, restoring federal Pell Grants that pay for a college education in prison or reducing long sentences. The exclusion is especially acute for **black and low-income people**, who are disproportionately swept up into the criminal justice system.

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It's a very dangerous thing when you strip the right to vote from any person because it's just a matter of time before it gets to you.

-Renaldo Hudson
Community Organizer



Contact your lawmakers!



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