

A-Engrossed
Senate Bill 579

Ordered by the Senate March 15
Including Senate Amendments dated March 15

Sponsored by Senators PROZANSKI, GELSER BLOUIN, DEMBROW, JAMA, MANNING JR; Senators CAMPOS, FREDERICK, SOLLMAN, Representatives NELSON, NOSSE, PHAM K (at the request of Oregon Justice Resource Center) (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Allows persons convicted of felony to register to vote, update voter registration and vote in elections while incarcerated. **Provides that person does not forfeit and may not be deprived of right to vote while incarcerated.** Specifies that person's residence is where person resided prior to incarceration.

Becomes operative June 1, 2026.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to voting by adults in custody; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 137.281, 247.013
3 and 247.035.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 137.281 is amended to read:

6 137.281. (1) In any felony case, when the defendant is sentenced to a term of incarceration, the
7 defendant is deprived of all rights and privileges described in subsection (3) of this section from the
8 date of sentencing until:

9 (a) The defendant is released from incarceration; or

10 (b) The defendant's conviction is set aside.

11 (2) Subsection (1) of this section applies to any term of incarceration, whether the term of
12 incarceration was imposed as a result of conviction or as a sanction or revocation resulting from
13 the defendant's violation of the terms and conditions of probation, parole or post-prison supervision.

14 (3) The rights and privileges of which a person may be deprived under this section are:

15 (a) Holding a public office or an office of a political party or becoming or remaining a candidate
16 for either office;

17 (b) Holding a position of private trust; **or**

18 (c) Acting as a juror.[: or]

19 *[(d) Exercising the right to vote.]*

20 (4) If the court under subsection (1) of this section temporarily stays execution of sentence for
21 any purpose other than probation, the defendant nonetheless is sentenced for purposes of subsection
22 (1) of this section.

23 *[(5) A person convicted of any crime and serving a term of imprisonment in any federal correctional
24 institution in this state is deprived of the rights to register to vote, update a registration or vote in any
25 election in this state from the date of sentencing until:]*

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 *[(a) The person is discharged or paroled from imprisonment; or]*

2 *[(b) The person's conviction is set aside.]*

3 *[(6) The county clerk or county official in charge of elections in any county may cancel the regis-*
4 *tration of any person serving a term of imprisonment in any federal correctional institution in this*
5 *state.]*

6 [(7)] (5) Except as otherwise provided in ORS 10.030, the rights and privileges withdrawn by this
7 section are restored automatically upon release from incarceration, but in the case of parole shall
8 be automatically withdrawn upon a subsequent imprisonment for violation of the terms of the parole.

9 **(6) A defendant sentenced to a term of incarceration in a felony case does not forfeit and**
10 **may not be deprived of the right to vote while incarcerated.**

11 **SECTION 2.** ORS 247.013 is amended to read:

12 247.013. (1)(a) A qualified person shall be considered registered to vote in a county when the
13 person's first registration in the county occurs as described in ORS 247.012.

14 **(b) A qualified person who is registered to vote and is in the physical custody of a jail,**
15 **prison or correctional facility, including a local correctional facility as defined in ORS 169.005**
16 **or a youth correction facility as defined in ORS 162.135, shall be considered registered to vote**
17 **in the county of the qualified elector's last voluntary residence.**

18 (2) An elector who changes residence address from the county in which the elector is registered
19 to a different county within the state, in order to vote in an election, must be an elector registered
20 in the county in which the new residence address of the elector is located.

21 (3) If there is a change in any information required for registration under this chapter, and the
22 elector has not changed residence address to another county, the registration of the elector may be
23 updated as provided in this chapter.

24 (4) Notwithstanding subsections (2) and (3) of this section, if an elector changes residence ad-
25 dress from the county in which the elector is registered to a different county within the state, the
26 elector need not register again if the registration of the elector is updated.

27 (5) If the county clerk does not have evidence of a change in any information required for reg-
28 istration under this chapter for an elector, the registration of the elector shall be considered active.

29 (6) The registration of an elector shall be considered inactive if:

30 (a) The county clerk has received evidence that there has been a change in the information re-
31 quired for registration under this chapter; and

32 (b) The county clerk has mailed the notice described in ORS 247.563.

33 (7) The inactive registration of an elector must be updated before the elector may vote in an
34 election.

35 **SECTION 3.** ORS 247.035 is amended to read:

36 247.035. (1) An elections official, in determining the residence and qualifications of a person of-
37 fering to register or vote, shall consider the following rules, so far as they may be applicable:

38 (a) The person's residence shall be the place in which habitation is fixed and to which, when the
39 person is absent, the person intends to return.

40 (b) If a person's property is split by a jurisdictional line, the person shall be registered where
41 the residence is located. If the residence is split by a jurisdictional line, the person shall register
42 where the greatest value of the residence is located according to county assessment and taxation
43 records.

44 (c) A person shall not be considered to have gained a residence in any location in this state into
45 which the person comes for temporary purposes only, without the intention of making it the person's

1 home.

2 (d) If a person moves to another state with the intention of making a permanent home, the
3 person shall be considered to have lost residence in this state.

4 (e) If a person goes from this state into any other state or territory and votes there, the person
5 shall be considered to have lost residence in this state.

6 (f) A person who has left the place of the person's residence for a temporary purpose only
7 *[shall]* **may** not be considered to have lost residence.

8 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section[,]:

9 (a) A person who has left the place of the person's residence for a temporary purpose only, who
10 has not established another residence for voter registration purposes and who does not have a place
11 in which habitation is fixed *[shall]* **may** not be considered to have changed or lost residence. The
12 person may register at the address of the place the person's residence was located before the person
13 left.

14 (b) **A person who has left the place of the person's residence as part of the person's**
15 **confinement in a jail, prison or correctional facility, including a local correctional facility as**
16 **defined in ORS 169.005 or a youth correction facility as defined in ORS 162.135, who has not**
17 **established another residence for voter registration purposes, and who does not have a place**
18 **in which habitation is fixed, may not be considered to have changed or lost residence. The**
19 **person may register at the address of the place the person's residence was located before the**
20 **person left, including a residence address described in ORS 247.038.**

21 (3) An elections official may consider, but is not limited to considering, the following factors in
22 determining residency of a person for voter registration purposes:

23 (a) Where the person receives personal mail;

24 (b) Where the person is licensed to drive;

25 (c) Where the person registers motor vehicles for personal use;

26 (d) Where any immediate family members of the person reside;

27 (e) The address from which the person pays for utility services; and

28 (f) The address from which the person files any federal or state income tax returns.

29 **SECTION 4. Section 5 of this 2023 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 247.**

30 **SECTION 5. (1) The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Department of Cor-**
31 **rections, the Oregon Youth Authority and cities and counties that operate local correctional**
32 **facilities and youth correction facilities, shall by rule establish procedures that allow:**

33 (a) **All qualified individuals who are in the physical custody of a jail, prison or**
34 **correctional facility, including a local correctional facility or a youth correction facility, to**
35 **register to vote or update their voter registration;**

36 (b) **All registered electors who are in the physical custody of a jail, prison or correctional**
37 **facility, including a local correctional facility or a youth correction facility, to receive all**
38 **election materials, including ballots and voters' pamphlets; and**

39 (c) **All registered electors who are in the physical custody of a jail, prison or correctional**
40 **facility, including a local correctional facility or a youth correction facility, to cast a ballot**
41 **in each election.**

42 (2) **The Secretary of State shall by rule establish a process for identifying, for an indi-**
43 **vidual confined in a jail, prison or correctional facility, including a local correctional facility**
44 **or youth correction facility, the last voluntary residence of the individual prior to the con-**
45 **finement, including a residence address described in ORS 247.038, for the purposes of the**

1 individual registering to vote or updating the individual's voter registration.

2 (3) Notwithstanding ORS 254.115, 254.125 or 254.135, in implementing this section the
3 Secretary of State may by rule authorize the preparation of ballots of any different weight
4 of paper, overall size and shape or other physical criteria as is necessary to conform with
5 postal, military, correctional or other state and federal statutes regarding the transportation
6 and delivery of ballots to a jail, prison or correctional facility, including a local correctional
7 facility or a youth correction facility.

8 (4) As used in this section:

9 (a) "Local correctional facility" has the meaning given that term in ORS 169.005.

10 (b) "Youth correction facility" has the meaning given that term in ORS 162.135.

11 **SECTION 6.** (1) Section 5 of this 2023 Act and the amendments to ORS 137.281, 247.013
12 and 247.035 by sections 1 to 3 of this 2023 Act become operative on June 1, 2026.

13 (2) The Secretary of State, the Department of Corrections, the Oregon Youth Authority
14 and any city or county that operates a local correctional facility or youth correction facility
15 may take any action before the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section that
16 is necessary to enable that entity to exercise, on and after the operative date specified in
17 subsection (1) of this section, all of the duties, functions and powers conferred on the entity
18 by section 5 of this 2023 Act and the amendments to ORS 137.281, 247.013 and 247.035 by
19 sections 1 to 3 of this 2023 Act.

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