

## OUTSIDE KING COUNTY

### Southwest Washington Lawyer Referral Service

(Clark, Cowlitz, and Skamania Counties)  
360.695.0599 Monday – Friday, 12-4pm

### Tacoma-Pierce County Lawyer Referral Service

www.tpcba.com  
620 Earnest S. Brazill Street, Suite B  
Tacoma, WA 98405-4620  
253.383.3432

### Kitsap County Lawyer Referral Service

www.kitsaplegalservices.org/ars/index.html  
920 Park Avenue  
Bremerton, WA 98337  
360.373.2426

### Snohomish County Bar Referral Services

www.snobar.org  
P.O. Box 5429  
Everett, WA 98206  
425.388.3018

### Lewis County Lawyer Referral Program

462 Northwest Park Street  
Chehalis, WA 98532  
360.748.0430

### Spokane County Bar Association Online Lawyer Referral Service

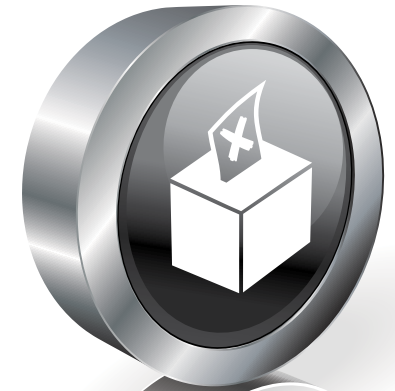
www.spokanebar.org

### Thurston County Bar Association

www.tcba.org  
P.O. Box 1653  
Olympia, WA 98503  
206.561.0341

*The Thurston County Bar Association does not provide an attorney referral service, but its website does list all TCBA members by practice area.*

# VOTING RIGHTS RESTORATION



in Washington  
State



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF WASHINGTON FOUNDATION  
901 FIFTH AVENUE #630, SEATTLE, WA 98164  
WWW.ACLU-WA.ORG

The Washington legislature recently passed a law that automatically restores the right to vote to individuals convicted of felonies when they have completed their time in prison and have served any required community custody supervised by the State Department of Corrections. This law took effect on July 26, 2009.

### **When is my right to vote restored?**

- If you were convicted in **federal court or state court outside Washington**: Once you are no longer in prison, your right to vote is restored automatically.
- If you were convicted in **Washington state court**: Once you are no longer under the authority of the Department of Corrections (DOC), your right to vote is restored automatically. Not being under the authority of the DOC means you are not in prison and you are no longer on community custody. If you are unsure whether you are on community custody, you should call and ask the DOC at 360.725.8213 on Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

### **If I was convicted of a misdemeanor or a juvenile offense in juvenile court, do I lose the right to vote?**

**No.** You lose the right to vote only if you are convicted of a felony. People who have misdemeanor convictions or who were convicted of a juvenile offense in juvenile court can register to vote.

### **Can I lose the right to vote after it has been restored?**

Yes. If you are convicted of another felony offense, you again will lose the right to vote until you have completed the new prison term of incarceration and any new required period of community custody.

Also, if you owe legal financial obligations, such as court fees, costs, or restitution, **and** fail to make three payments in a calendar year **and** the court determines that you have intentionally failed to comply with your financial obligations, the court **may** revoke your right to vote. You can regain the right to vote again when you can prove you are making a good faith effort to pay, or when you fully pay off your debt.

If you have questions about how the law affects your situation, you should consult an attorney. Information about free legal clinics and attorney referral services is provided at the end of this pamphlet.

### **If I have my voting rights, should I still try to get a Certificate of Discharge?**

Before this law passed, voting rights were restored by having the court issue a "Certificate of Discharge" (COD). A COD has important benefits beyond restoring the right to vote. For individuals wishing to seal and vacate their felony criminal records, getting a COD "starts the clock" on a waiting period that must occur before you may ask the court to seal your record.

Under the new law, the restoration of voting rights does not mean that a COD has been entered in your case. Obtaining a COD still requires fulfilling all requirements of your sentence (except a no-contact order) and obtaining a separate court order, either by petition to the court or request to the prosecuting attorney. If you wish to obtain a COD, please consult an attorney or one of the resources listed below.

### **LEGAL REFERRAL SERVICES**

(Civil and Criminal)

For a modest fee (between \$35 and \$50) these services refer persons to attorneys in the specified counties; most programs also refer to surrounding counties as well. The fee typically includes a 30-minute initial consultation. After the first consultation or the first 30 minutes, the attorneys charge their regular fees.

#### **KING COUNTY**

##### **King County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service**

[www.kcba.org/ScriptContent/KCBA/LRS/index.cfm](http://www.kcba.org/ScriptContent/KCBA/LRS/index.cfm)

**206.267.7010**

##### **King County Neighborhood Legal Clinics**

[www.kcba.org/ScriptContent/KCBA/legalhelp/NLC/clients.cfm](http://www.kcba.org/ScriptContent/KCBA/legalhelp/NLC/clients.cfm)

**206.267.7070**

*Located throughout King County, clinics provide a free half-hour consultation with volunteer attorneys. Attorneys determine whether the client has a legal problem, suggest possible options and provide appropriate referrals. However, attorneys do not represent clients in court or draft legal documents. The clinics are open to all King County residents regardless of income.*