Felon Disenfranchisement in Minnesota

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• Minnesota currently disenfranchises people convicted of a felony until the completion of their sentence.
  – current prison inmates
  – parolees/conditional release
  – felony probationers
  – jail inmates convicted of a felony
• Notification practices are inconsistent
Disenfranchisement is rising in Minnesota.
Only 1 in 4 disenfranchised Minnesotans are incarcerated. (2007)

- **Prison**: 9,214 (13%)
- **Parole**: 5,173 (8%)
- **Jail**: 8,085 (12%)
- **Felony Probation**: 45,633 (67%)

*includes total jail population
The Minnesota felon voting ban now disenfranchises about 10% of African Americans and 7% of American Indians. The proposed legislation would reduce these rates to 3.5% and 2.4%, respectively.
The U.S. public supports voting rights for probationers (68%) and parolees (60%), but not prisoners (31%).

(U.S. Harris Poll in Manza and Uggen 2006)
Probationers and parolees who vote in Oregon have significantly lower recidivism rates.
U.S. State Disenfranchisement Law (2009)

- No restrictions (2):
  - Maine, Vermont

- Inmates only (15 + DC):

- Inmates, Parolees (4):
  - California, Colorado, Connecticut*, New York,

- Inmates, Parolees, Probationers (18):

- Inmates, Parolees, Probationers, Certain Ex-felons (11):

* Indicates recent change or complexity