

State of Iowa

Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER SEVEN

- WHEREAS,** the Bill of Rights set forth in Article I of the Constitution of the State of Iowa recognizes that the political power of the State of Iowa is inherent in the people, and the government is instituted for the protection, security, and benefit of its people; and
- WHEREAS,** the Constitution of the State of Iowa demonstrates the significance of the right to vote by devoting all of Article II to protecting the right of suffrage; and
- WHEREAS,** a person convicted of any infamous crime forfeits the right to vote and hold office pursuant to Article II, section 5, of the Constitution of the State of Iowa; and
- WHEREAS,** the Iowa Supreme Court has interpreted infamous crime to mean a felony criminal conviction; and
- WHEREAS,** Article IV, section 16, of the Constitution of the State of Iowa grants the Governor of the State of Iowa the power to restore the rights of citizenship that were forfeited by such a conviction; and
- WHEREAS,** restoring the right to vote of Iowans who have discharged their felony sentences will make our communities safer because those who are welcomed back as full members of society are less likely to recidivate; and
- WHEREAS,** restoring the right to vote of Iowans who have discharged their felony sentences recognizes that path to redemption following a felony conviction necessarily includes reintegration into our political process; and
- WHEREAS,** restoring the right to vote of Iowans who have discharged their felony sentence will reduce unnecessary burdens on Iowans who wish to obtain their rights back and conserve limited taxpayer resources currently used to review applications for restoration of voting rights; and
- WHEREAS,** two years ago in my Condition of the State address, I proposed an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Iowa to ensure that Iowans who have completed their felony sentences have their right to vote restored without relying on the discretion of the Governor of the State of Iowa; and
- WHEREAS,** a constitutional amendment continues to be the only permanent solution to this issue, but the process for proposing and ratifying such an amendment will likely take several additional years during which time Iowans would be deprived of these advantages; and
- WHEREAS,** the people of Iowa will benefit now from the restoration of the right to vote for Iowans who have completed their sentences and a clear and consistent process that continues to restore the right to vote immediately to Iowans who discharge their sentences.

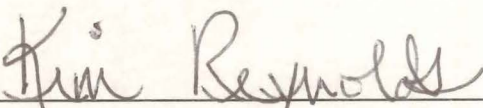
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kim Reynolds, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby restore the rights of citizenship, including that of voting and qualification to hold public office, to any person who forfeited those rights by conviction of an infamous crime, except for a violation of chapter 707 of the Iowa Code, and who has discharged his or her sentence on or before August 5, 2020. I further order the following:

- I. **Discharge of sentence.** For purposes of this Executive Order, a person has discharged his or her sentence upon completion of any term of confinement, parole, probation, or other supervised release for all felony convictions, and completion of any special sentence imposed pursuant to chapter 903B.
- II. **Convictions in other jurisdictions.** This restoration of citizenship rights shall apply to convictions of an infamous crime in any jurisdiction, including felony convictions in federal court or the court of another state, to the extent that the conviction has resulted in the forfeiture of citizenship rights in Iowa.
- III. **Limitations of restoration.** The provisions of this Executive Order do not restore rights with respect to firearms as provided in chapter 724 of the Iowa Code, do not grant an absolute pardon, do not relieve an individual from paying fines, costs, restitution, or other monetary obligations resulting from a criminal conviction, and do not operate as a bar to greater penalties for second offenses, subsequent convictions, or conviction as a habitual offender. This Executive Order does not restore the rights of citizenship in another jurisdiction unless the other jurisdiction requires the restoration of citizenship rights in Iowa because of a person's Iowa felony conviction.
- IV. **Ongoing restoration.** I will restore the rights of citizenship, including that of voting and qualification to hold public office, to any person who has forfeited those rights by conviction of an infamous crime, except for a violation of chapter 707 of the Iowa Code, and who discharges his or his sentence, on a daily basis beginning on August 6, 2020. Such restorations shall be effective immediately upon the discharge of a person's sentence.
- V. **Proof of restoration.** This Executive Order shall serve as evidence of the restoration of citizenship rights for any person who forfeited those rights by conviction of an infamous crime, except for a violation of chapter 707 of the Iowa Code, and who has discharged his or her sentence, as defined above, on or before August 5, 2020. The certificate of restoration of citizenship issued daily, and available from the Office of the Governor, shall serve as evidence of the restoration of citizenship rights for any such person who discharges his or her sentence after August 5, 2020.
- VI. **Records of discharge of sentence.** The Iowa Department of Corrections shall provide the Iowa Secretary of State records necessary to assist in updating the database of disqualified persons to reflect the restoration of citizenship rights in this Executive Order. The Department shall also continue to provide a record of all additional persons convicted of a felony, except for a violation of chapter 707 of the Iowa Code, in Iowa court who discharge their sentences directly from prison or after completing a term of parole or probation to the Iowa Secretary of State on at least a weekly basis.
- VII. **Registration and exercise of the right to vote.** I strongly encourage all Iowans whose citizenship rights are restored by the Executive Order or who are otherwise eligible to vote in this state, to register to vote by submitting a voter registration form to their county auditor or completing the online voter registration. And I strongly encourage all these Iowans to begin participating fully as a citizen in our local, state, and national elections.
- VIII. **Applications for restoration of citizenship rights.** Nothing in this Executive Order prohibits an Iowan from submitting an application for restoration of citizenship rights to the Office of the Governor.

- IX. Interpretation and severability.** This Executive Order shall be interpreted in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations and shall not supersede any laws or regulations in place as of its effective date. The provisions of paragraphs III through X of this Executive Order do not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, by any party against the State of Iowa, its departments, agencies, or political subdivisions, or its officers, employees, agents, or any other persons. If any provision of this Executive Order is found to be invalid, unenforceable, or otherwise contrary to applicable law, then the remaining provisions of this Executive Order, as applied to any person or circumstance, in shall continue in full force and effect and shall not be affected by such finding of invalidity or unenforceability.
- X. Effective date and expiration.** This Executive Order shall apply prospectively only as of its effective date and it shall expire upon the ratification of any future amendment to Article II, section 5, of the Constitution of the State of Iowa. The expiration of this Executive Order shall not affect the validity of any restoration of citizenship rights granted while this Executive Order is in effect.

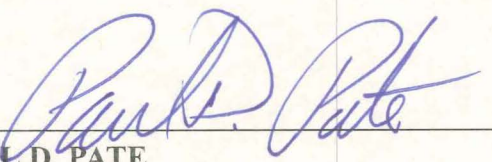


IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE
HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND
CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF IOWA TO BE
AFFIXED TO THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER.
DONE IN DES MOINES, IOWA THIS 5TH DAY
OF AUGUST IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY.



KIM REYNOLDS
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

ATTEST:



PAUL D. PATE
SECRETARY OF STATE