

VOTING 2026...

Virginia has three (3) Amendments to the Commonwealth's Constitution on the ballot in November. It is important to enshrine these rights into the Constitution.

The 3 amendments are:

Marriage Equality Amendment - it will include that the state can not deny the issuance of a marriage license to two adult persons seeking a lawful marriage on the basis of the sex, gender, or race of such persons.

Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment - This amendment will provide that "every individual has the fundamental right to reproductive freedom, including the ability to make and carry out decisions relating to one's own prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, contraception, abortion care, miscarriage management, and fertility care". However, it will allow the legislature to restrict abortion in the third trimester, so long as it is not necessary to protect the life or physical or mental health of the pregnant individual or if the fetus is not viable.

Voting Rights Restoration Amendment - The Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1901-1902 enacted a new constitution which imposed a lifetime ban on registering to vote for anyone who had been convicted of a felony, only allowing for felons to receive restoration of their voting rights from the governor.

Felony disenfranchisement is used to suppress the African-American Vote. Although it has existed since colonial times, voter disenfranchisement boomed after the Civil War. Afraid of large black populations finally being able to vote, Southern states looked for ways to penalize African-American citizens and deny them the vote, both through Jim Crow laws and felony disenfranchisement. We are one of the few states where a felon that completes his or her time in prison and makes restitution to the victim(s) does not automatically have their right to vote restored.