## **VIRGINIA** RIGHTS RESTORATION

Virginia is a mass incarceration state

1,200

Number of Crimes that are Considered Felonies 122,483

Total Corrections Population (includes prison, jail, probation, parole)

1,860

Total Juveniles in Custody

The number of female prisoners under state or federal correctional authority in Virginia has grown by over 9 times what it was in 1980.

303 (9) 1980



2011

PRISONERS 10,000 PEOPLE

VIOLENT CRIMES - 100 INCIDENTS PER

100,000 PEOPLE

Violent crime has remained relatively the same for the last three decades despite the state locking more people up.

1980

VIRGINIA CORRECTIONS INSTITUTIONS & UNITS

**FEDERAL** PRISIONS State Prison Federal Prison



\$25,129 VIRGINIA'S SPENDING PER INMATE EACH YEAR



BY CONTRAST, VIRGINIA SPENDS ONLY \$10,364 PER STUDENT EACH YEAR.





- Rate Ranking
- 41. Wyoming
- 42. lowa
- 43. Pennsylvania
- 44. Virginia
- 45. Massachusetts

## Violent Crime Rate Ranking

- 44. Idaho
- 45. Utah
- 46. Wyoming
- 47. Virginia
- 48. New Hampshire

Virginia has among the lowest rates for violent crime and property crime in the country.

> But it ranks at the top among states for its rate of imprisonment for incarcerated people.





**Imprisonment** Rate Ranking

13. South Carolina

14. Virginia

- 15. Delaware
- 16. Michigan
- 17. Indiana
- 18. Ohio

## Prison Gerrymandering

Voter Dilution from the Inside-Out

Prison gerrymandering is the practice of counting prisoners as local community members for elections even though they cannot vote or use local services outside prison. As Virginia has so many prisoners across the state due to mass incarceration, the racial implications are deep.

Most prisons are in the most rural, mostly white parts of the state.



Most prisoners are from dense urban areas, where many people of color live.



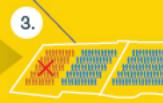
This is what happens:



Virginia inmates, disproportionately people of color, are counted as residents through the U.S. Census.



The federal government and other agencies that use Census data do not usually distinguish that those individuals are incarcerated.



Many Virginia election districts purposefully use the skewed data to draw their lines, giving rural counties more voting power than

they should have.

1940



For example, in 2010,

a vote cast in District

5 of Powhatan County

was worth almost twice

(which is 83% white)

a vote cast elsewhere

because nearly half its

estimated population were incarcerated

individuals.





This outcome inflates the votes of rural voters and dilutes the votes of urban voters.

## Disenfranchisement of People with Felony Convictions

1851: Voting disenfranchisement is written into Virginia's constitution.

1950s-present: Other states begin to reform felony disenfranchisement laws to restore the vote.

2011: Virginia remains one of only 4 states to impose lifetime disenfranchisement on all people with felony convictions.





1902: Virginia adopts a constitutional amendment as part of an explicit "southern strategy" to prevent newly enfranchised black men from voting.

May 2013: In response to community pressure, Governor McDonnell announces automatic restoration of rights for people with "non-violent" felony convictions. Still, Virginia continues to have one of the most complicated rights restoration policies in the country.

450,000

372,000

people in Virginia have had their civil rights taken away

of these are people who have completed their prison time

of the voting age population of Virginia is disenfranchised.

Virginia has the highest rate of disenfranchisement

in the nation

RRRR

of the total African American population in Virginia is disenfranchised.

Latinos are more likely to be



disenfranchised than

White people in Virginia.

Learn how you can take action to help

end lifetime disenfranchisement at