

# SECOND CHANCES FLORIDA

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

VOTING RESTORATION AMENDMENT 4 IN EFFECT ON JANUARY 8, 2019

**1. When does Amendment 4 go into effect?**

The amendment goes into effect on January 8th.

**2. If I am a Returning Citizen who has completed all portions of my sentence, can I register to vote on January 8th?**

Yes.

**3. What organization can I contact if I need help getting registered?**

If you have questions about registering to vote, you can contact 877-698-6830

Florida Rights Restoration Coalition:  
[www.floridarrc.org](http://www.floridarrc.org)

League of Women Voters of Florida:  
[www.lwvfl.org/](http://www.lwvfl.org/)

**4. Does the legislature need to write rules to implement Amendment 4?**

No. The legislature does not need to write enabling legislation. The amendment is self-executing. The State has conceded this point in its filing in the *Hand v. Scott* case. This means that, unlike what we may have seen after Fair Districts or Medical Marijuana was passed, the legislature does not have to do anything to implement Amendment 4.

**5. What is the legislature's role in Amendment 4 implementation?**

The legislature is responsible for oversight and funding of the government agencies responsible for administering the implementation of Amendment 4.

**6. Do Returning Citizens register through the normal voter registration process?**

Yes. The existing voter registration form is adequate and sufficient to immediately register individuals impacted by Amendment 4. Question #2 of that form asks individuals to "affirm that I am not a convicted felon, or if I am, my right to vote has been restored." Individuals can check this box in the same way that they affirm they are U.S. Citizens (see Question #1 on the State's Voter Registration Application Form). Individuals may also register via the Florida Online Voter Registration System at <https://registertovoteflorida.gov/>.

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## 7. Do Returning Citizens need to bring proof of a completed sentence before registering?

No. The responsibility of the citizen is to honestly affirm that, by completing the terms of their sentence, their voting rights have been restored – because, if they have completed their sentence, the voters' rights have been restored.

## 8. What does it mean to complete all portions of my sentence?

We believe that “completion of all terms of sentence” includes any period of incarceration, probation, parole and financial obligations imposed as part of an individual’s sentence. These financial obligations may include restitution, fines, and fees imposed as part of a sentence or a condition of probation under existing Florida statute. That said, fees not specifically identified as part of a sentence or a condition of probation are therefore not necessary for ‘completion of sentence’ and thus, do not need to be paid before an individual may register. These are the policies used by the Office of Offender Review to determine “completion of sentence” and therefore consistent with current state practices.

## 9. Where can I find more information online about whether I’ve completed the terms of my sentence?

**For more information, you can contact a number of state organizations including:**

- Florida Department of Corrections:  
<http://www.dc.state.fl.us/>
- Florida Department of Law Enforcement:  
<http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/>
- Florida Commission on Offender Review:  
<https://www.fcor.state.fl.us/>
- Florida Clerks of County Courts:  
<https://www.stateofflorida.com/clerks-of-court.aspx>
- Florida Supervisors of Election:  
<https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/>