VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION 17

Proposition 17 is simple – it restores a person’s right to vote upon completion of their prison term.

- When a person completes their prison sentence, they should be encouraged to reenter society and have a stake in their community. Restoring their voting rights does that. Civic engagement is connected to lower rates of recidivism. When people feel that they are valued members of their community, they are less likely to return to prison.
- 19 other states allow people to vote once they have successfully completed their prison sentence. It’s time for California to do the same.
- A Florida study found that people who have completed their prison sentences and had their voting rights restored were less likely to commit crimes in the future.
- Nearly 50,000 Californians who have completed their prison sentences pay taxes at the local, state, and federal levels. However, they are not able to vote at any level of government.

PROP 17 WILL HAVE REAL LIFE IMPACTS – STORIES FROM CALIFORNIANS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THEIR SENTENCES

After a parole board granted Richard his freedom, he was shocked to learn that he still could not cast a vote in California. Over the last 20 years, Richard has become what he describes as “a man built for others” – helping develop a drug and alcohol counseling program while still in prison and advocating for better criminal justice policies. “I work hard, serve my community,
ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 17

pay taxes, give back, and I am still a citizen of this country,” Richard said. “I believe that qualifies me to have the right to vote again.”

Andrew is a Navy veteran who served his country but developed a drinking problem and made big mistakes that led to prison. He earned parole by working toward his rehabilitation, and now that his prison sentence is completed, he’s building a new life as a veteran learning to contribute to his community. Andrew says, “I believe in working hard for what you get in life, and I believe that I’ve earned the right to vote so I can be a full member of my community.”

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Parole is intended to be a period of reintegration into the community. People on parole who have completed their prison sentences raise families, hold jobs, pay taxes, and contribute to society in every other way. Restoring a person’s voting eligibility removes stigma and helps strengthen their connection to the community.

www.Yeson17.com #FreetheVote

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