

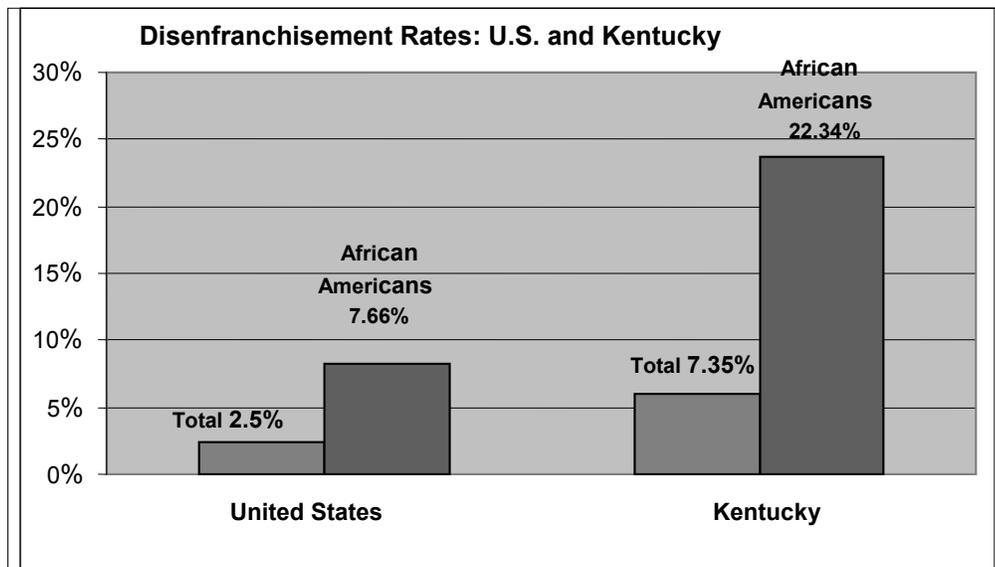
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KENTUCKY



Felony Disenfranchisement in the Commonwealth of Kentucky

FINDINGS

- 1.) Kentucky is one of four states that permanently disenfranchise all persons with felony convictions even after they have completed their full sentence.
- 2.) Kentucky has the third highest rate of disenfranchisement in the country. One out of every 14 Kentucky residents is disenfranchised, a rate almost three times the national rate.
- 3.) Kentucky has the second highest African American disenfranchisement rate in the country with more than one of every five African Americans ineligible to vote, nearly triple the national rate.
- 4.) 75% of people ineligible to vote because of felony convictions have completed their sentences.
- 5.) In 2001, a simplification of the restoration process increased applications for restoration and the number of people granted their voting rights grew from 831 in 2000 to 1,231 in 2003.
- 6.) In 2004, additional requirements added to the application process produced a decline in the number of people who had their voting rights restored to 164 in 2006.
- 7.) In 2008, removal of some of the additional requirements resulted in an increase in those whose voting rights were restored to 4,260 between 2008 and 2010.
- 8.) Restoration of voting rights in Kentucky depends on the policy of the sitting governor, making it inconsistent and inequitable.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Disenfranchised Population in Kentucky		
Year	2004	2010
Prison & Jail	18,653	22,544
Parole	9,609	14,628
Probation	29,311	25,688
Completed Sentence	128,775	180,984
Total Disenfranchised	186,348	243,842

1. Place a Constitutional Amendment on the ballot.
2. Reexamine and improve the current application process.
3. Provide information and assistance three months prior to sentence completion.
4. Increase public education on restoration process and resources available.
5. Release restoration application and approval data annually.

The information above is summarized from “Felony Disenfranchisement in the Commonwealth of Kentucky: A Report of the LWV of Kentucky, January, 2013” which can be found at—<http://lwvky.org/about/publications>.

The League of Women Voters of Kentucky, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Members include both women and men.