

FELONS

If you have been convicted of a felony, per NMSA § 1-4-27.1 (A), your registration to vote has been canceled.

The corrections department, New Mexico Sentencing Commission and the Administrative Office of the Courts provides information regarding convictions to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State uses this information to update the statewide voter registration electronic management system to show the eligibility status of persons convicted of felonies. This update is done on a monthly basis. NMSA 1-4-27.1 (C) & (D). The Secretary of State also requests data from the United States Attorney for the District of New Mexico. Id. § 1-4-27.1(E). Under federal law, the U.S. Attorney is required to cooperate in providing the information 42 U.S.C. § 1973gg-6(g) (1)-(4). Further, the Secretary of State is required to notify the County Clerk's voter registration officials of the information received from the U.S. Attorney. Id. § 1973gg-6(g) (5).

According to NMSA §1-4-27.1(B) and §31-13-1(A) you become eligible to register to vote once the following conditions are met (for all convictions, if the person has more than one felony conviction):

S/he has completed the terms of a suspended or deferred sentence imposed by a court;
OR

S/he has been unconditionally discharged from a correctional facility or detention center; AND

S/he has completed all conditions of parole or supervised probation (or supervised release from a federal conviction); OR

S/he has had the conviction overturned on appeal; OR

S/he has presented the governor with a certificate verifying the completion of the sentence and has been granted a pardon or a certificate by the Governor restoring the person's full rights of citizenship.

Once you have met the conditions above, the corrections department issues you a certificate of completion and also notifies the Secretary of State that you are entitled to register to vote (NMSA § 31-13-1(D)). At this point, you can go to the Clerk's Office (with your certificate of completion) and complete a registration form before the deadline for the next election.