



To the Members of the Minnesota House and Senate,

As clergy and faith leaders across Christian, Jewish, and Muslim traditions, representing congregations across Minnesota, we urge our state elected officials to support the full restoration of voting rights to Minnesotans in our communities on probation and parole.

Faith leaders, like most Minnesotans, recognize that people who have experienced incarceration need to experience restoration and redemption in society. Restoring their rights of citizenship, restores them of their voice and dignity.

Every citizen of the United States has an obligation and a duty to vote. Voting is a right that cannot and should not be taken away from any citizen of the U.S. No matter your race, area code, or income, every Minnesota citizen has an equal say in what happens in our state and our community. Denying Minnesotans the ability to vote not only denies a right, but it denies them the ability to fulfill their civic obligation to our democracy.

Minnesota has long been a leader when it comes to democracy and restoring the right to vote will bring the freedom to vote back to over 55,000 Minnesotans. All of their voices matter and we can't leave any of them behind.

Over 55,000 Minnesota citizens have had their freedom to vote blocked, even though they have completed their prison sentence and returned home to raise families, work jobs, pay taxes and contribute to society. They should be encouraged to reenter society and have a stake in their community, not be punished by having their voting rights denied.

Furthermore, well documented biases in the criminal justice system mean that poor people and people of color are more likely to be incarcerated than their white counterparts. For many people, life after prison means partial citizenship, as formerly incarcerated people often experience limited opportunities for employment, housing, and voting. As we work to reimagine our criminal legal system to be more fair and equitable, one of the first changes we can make is to restore voting rights to people who are most impacted by that system, inside and outside prisons.

We can't have an elected government that represents all of us when some groups are being excluded from our elections and denied the ability to participate in our democracy.

We're counting on your leadership at this crucial moment, because there is no freedom without the freedom to vote.

The Undersigned:

Rev. Keith Olstad, Minneapolis  
Mr. Randall Romsdahl, Minnetonka  
Rev. James Erlandson, Maplewood  
Rev. Jen Nagel, Minneapolis  
Rev. Anita Hill, Saint Paul  
Rev. Bonnie Forsman, Eagan  
Rev. Sandy Dodson, South St Paul  
Rev. Sarah Campbell, Minneapolis  
Rev. Thomas von Fischer, Wayzata  
Mr. Bruce Pederson, St Louis Park  
Rev. Dr. Justin Lind-Ayres, St Louis Park  
Deacon Dr. Amy Blumenshine, Minneapolis  
Rev. Jane McBride, Minneapolis  
Rev. Dwight Wagenius, Minneapolis  
Rev. Martha Bardwell, Minneapolis  
Pastor Henry Gunnink, Inver Grove Heights  
Fr. Dale Korogi, Minneapolis  
Rev. Carolyn Fure-Slocum, Northfield  
Rev. James Alberts, Saint Joseph  
Rev. Amy Wick Moore, New Brighton  
Rev. Peter Weston Miller, Saint Paul  
Rev. RICHARD SELLERS, Minneapolis  
Rev. Todd Lippert, Northfield  
Rev. Emily Goldthwaite, Minneapolis  
Ms. melissa miller, Golden Valley  
Rev. Donald Fulton, Minneapolis  
Rev. Robert Nelson, Rochester  
Rev. Paula Nordhem, Burnsville  
Rev. Mary Shaffer, St Louis Park  
Rev. Dr. Joy McDonald Coltvet, Saint Paul  
Rev. Andrew Davis, Saint Peter  
Rev. Rebecca Voelkel, Minneapolis  
Rev. Eliot Howard, Edina  
Rev. Leah Rosso, Sartell  
Rev. Justin Chapman, Rochester

Dr. David Wetzell, Andover  
Pastor Robert Dahl, Willmar  
Rev. BARBARA MARTIN, Minneapolis  
Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, Rochester  
Min. JaNae Bates, Saint Paul  
Rev. Rex McKee, St Louis Park  
Ms. Ann Beane, Minneapolis  
Rev. Ruth MacKenzie, Saint Paul  
Rev. Suzanne Owens-Pike, Minneapolis  
Rev. Jan Skogstrom, Minneapolis  
Rev. Miriam Samuelson-Roberts, Minneapolis  
Ms. Renee Domeier, Saint Cloud  
Imam Mohamed Omar, Bloomington  
Pastor Nathan Roberts, Minneapolis  
Rabbi Emma Kippley-Ogman, Saint Paul  
Rev. Molly Cox, Minneapolis  
Sister Betty Kenny, Saint Paul  
Imam Asad Zaman, Saint Paul  
Mr. Vernon Rice, Mounds View  
Father Paul Jaroszeski, Ramsey  
Rev. Robert Lyndes, New Brighton  
Rev. Dr. Elisabeth Johnson, Saint Paul  
Ms. Karen Johnson, Minneapolis  
Rev. Alan Bray, Saint Peter  
Rev. Nancy Anderson, Minneapolis  
Rev. Theresa Roos, Richfield  
Rev. Dr. Gary Titusdahl, Minneapolis  
Rev. Howard Bell, Eagan  
Rev. Margaret Thompson, Columbia Heights  
Deacon Carl Valdez, Minneapolis  
Rev. Karen Larson, Minneapolis  
Rev. Jennifer Rome, Saint Paul  
Pastor Chrissie Carver, Rosemount  
Rev. John Omans, Waseca  
Rev. Matthias Peterson-Brandt, Saint Paul  
Rev. Lisa Janke, Rochester  
Rev. Carol Shaffer, Rochester  
Rev. Gregory Dana, Saint Paul  
Rev. Dr. Glenn Monson, Rochester  
Rev. Bonnie Wilcox, Saint Paul  
Pastor Jenna Daniels, Saint Paul  
Rev. Hans Jorgensen, Roseville  
Rev. Christa Forsythe, Atwater  
Deacon Carole Joyce, Rochester

Rev. Dr. Karen Sellers, Minneapolis  
Rev. Daniel Belgum, Morris  
Pastor Ole Olson, Buffalo  
Rev Gregory Gilbert, St Paul  
Rabbi Alexander Davis, St Louis Park  
Rabbi David Locketz, Minnetonka  
Rev. Terri Burnor, Saint Paul  
Rabbi Adam Spilker, Saint Paul  
Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm, St. Paul  
Rabbi Lynn Liberman, St Paulrabbi  
Rev. David Landt, Minnetonka  
Rev. Peter Christ, Roseville  
Pr. Becky Swanson, Garrison  
Rev Dr Rachael Keefe, West St Paul  
Rev. Penelope Tower, Richfield  
Rev. Dr. Justin Sabia-Tanis, Golden Valley  
Miss Melody Olson, Saint Paul  
Rev. Rob Smith, Burnsville  
Rev Micah Witham, West Saint Paul  
Rev. Lynn Scott, Roseville  
Rev Maria Anderson-Lippert, Bloomington  
Rev Allan Negstad, Saint Paul  
Mrs. Cathy Solomon, Centerville  
Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis, Saint Paul  
Rev. Cindy Maddox, Northfield  
Mr Walid Shadi, Blaine  
Pastor Kathy Redig, Winona  
Rev. Vicki Lambert, Red Wing  
Rev. Jo Cassiday-Maloney, Apple Valley  
Dr. Kevin Cassiday-Maloney, Apple Valley  
Rabbi Arielle Lekach-Rosenberg, Minneapolis  
Rabbi Debra Rappaport, Minneapolis  
Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm, Saint Paul  
Rabbi Jessica Rosenberg, Minneapolis  
Rabbi Justin Held, St Louis Park  
Rabbi Jill Avrin, Hopkins  
Rabbi Yosi Gordon, Mendota Heights  
Rabbi David Steinberg, Duluth  
Rev Hans Peterson, Belle Plaine  
Rabbi Adam Rubin, Saint Paul  
Chaplain Lisa Lynott-Carroll, Saint Cloud  
The Rev. Lydia Brown, North Oaks  
Mrs. Sara Spang, Saint Paul  
Pastor Brian Herron, Minneapolis

Dr. Hassan hassan, Saint Paul  
Rev. Elijah McDavid III, Minneapolis  
Rev. Jerry McAfee Minneapolis