

2024 LEGISLATIVE REPORT
MINNESOTA CLEMENCY REVIEW COMMISSION

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Background

The Minnesota Clemency Review Commission is required to file a written report with the legislature by February 15 of each year, reporting: (1) the number of clemency applications received by the commission during the preceding calendar year; (2) the number of favorable and adverse recommendations made by the commission for each type of clemency; (3) the number of applications granted and denied by the Board of Pardons for each type of clemency; (4) the crimes for which the applications were granted by the board, the year of each conviction, and the individual's age at the time of the crime; and (5) summary data voluntarily reported by applicants, including but not limited to demographic information on race, ethnicity, gender, disability status, and age, of applicants recommended or not recommended for clemency by the commission. Minn. Stat. § 638.22.

The Board of Pardons (Board) is comprised of Minnesota's Governor, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and Attorney General. The Board appoints three members each to the Clemency Review Commission. On July 1, 2024, the nine-member Clemency Review Commission (Commission) began reviewing applications for clemency to make recommendations to the Board on whether to grant or deny requests for clemency.

Under Article V, Section 7 of the Minnesota Constitution and Minn. Stat. Chapter 638, the Board may grant the following types of relief to persons who have been convicted of crimes:

- **Pardon** – an act of forgiveness that exempts the convicted person from the punishment imposed by law. Relief granted to applicants who have served their sentences. When a pardon is granted, the court is directed to issue an order setting aside the conviction and sealing all records related to the pardoned conviction.
- **Commutation** – the substitution of a lesser or different type of punishment for that imposed in the original sentence.

Pardons may be granted to persons who committed Minnesota crimes, have fully served their sentences, and have waited the applicable waiting periods after discharge from their sentences before applying for relief. Commutations may be granted to persons who are currently serving active Minnesota sentences and have waited the applicable waiting period before applying for relief.

2024 Meetings

The Board met on May 29, May 30, and December 20, 2024. The Commission met on June 25, August 2, September 6, October 4, and November 1, 2024.

**APPLICATIONS RECEIVED/HEARD BY THE COMMISSION
AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN 2024**

Type of Application	Applications Received	Applications Heard	Recommend Grant	Recommend Deny
Pardon	201	67	61	6
Commutation	78	11 (1 continued)	3	7

APPLICATIONS GRANTED/DENIED BY THE BOARD IN 2024

Type of Application	Applications Heard by Board	Grant	Deny
Pardon (including Pardon Extraordinary heard prior to July 1, 2024)	69	61	8
Commutation (including Pardon/Commutations heard prior to July 1, 2024)	11	3	8

PARDONS GRANTED BY THE BOARD IN 2024

Offense(s)	Age at Time of Offense	Year of Conviction
Violation of predatory offender registration requirement	19	2017
Disorderly conduct	24	2015
Wrongfully obtaining unemployment benefits	24	2005
Second-degree possession of a controlled substance	32	2016
Third-degree sale of a controlled substance	19	2002
Fifth-degree assault	25	1995
Theft	27	1967
Third-degree sale of a controlled substance	29	1998
Fourth-degree possession with intent to sell a controlled substance	28	1996
Third-degree possession of a controlled substance	23	2009
Terroristic threats	21	2007
Possession of child pornography	28	2008
Wrongfully obtaining public assistance	20	1995
Disorderly conduct	21	2008
Second-degree controlled substance crime	19	1998
Domestic assault	48	1998

Offense(s)	Age at Time of Offense	Year of Conviction
Interference with a 911 call	24	2008
Leaving the scene of a property damage accident	24	2008
Third-degree possession of a controlled substance	26	2009
Third-degree possession of a controlled substance	26	2009
Third-degree burglary	20	1990
First-degree damage to property	21	1991
Felony theft	21	1991
Assault in the second degree	19	2004
Second-degree possession of a controlled substance	18	2000
Third-degree burglary	19	2006
Domestic assault	38	1999
Disorderly conduct	45	2007
Disorderly conduct	25	2000
Issuing a dishonored check	25	2002
Financial transaction card fraud	25	2003
Theft	25	2003
Third-degree burglary	21	2012
Escape from custody	25	2014
Domestic assault	22	1999
Third-degree possession of a controlled substance	18	1999
Second-degree assault	20	2002
Second-degree possession of a controlled substance	26	2008
Second-degree possession of a controlled substance	26	2008
Second-degree possession of a controlled substance	24	1998
Fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance	41	2005
Conspiracy to commit third-degree sale of controlled substance	41	2005
Theft by swindle	25	2006
Giving a false name to a police officer	25	2007
Theft by swindle	21	2007
Financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult	23	2009
Burglary	17	1983
Theft by swindle	19	1985
Burglary	16	1982
Disorderly conduct	33	1999
Misdemeanor theft	22	1988
Receive and conceal stolen goods	18	1985
Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle	15	1981
Fifth-degree controlled substance crime	28	1995
First-degree possession of a controlled substance	37	2005

Offense(s)	Age at Time of Offense	Year of Conviction
Domestic assault by strangulation	31	2009
Third-degree burglary	22	2011
Aiding and abetting third-degree burglary	22	2011
Interference with an emergency call	39	2007
Aiding and abetting fourth-degree sale of a controlled substance	22	2011
Stalking	24	2006
Violation of a restraining order	24	2006
Harassment/stalking	24	2006
Fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle	20	2009
Fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle	20	2009
Aiding and abetting third-degree burglary	18	1996
Theft by wrongfully obtaining public assistance	39	2007
Conspiracy to commit aggravated robbery	18	2006
Theft by wrongfully obtaining public assistance	29	2007
Theft by swindle	31	2002
Theft by check	31	2001
Offering a forged check	33	2006
Issuing a dishonored check	37	2009
Second-degree burglary of a dwelling (2 counts)	20	2004
Fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct	18	1994
Receiving stolen property	19	2012
Second-degree burglary	19	2013
Liquor consumption under 21	19	2013
Driving after revocation	20	2013
First-degree damage to property	19	2008
Fourth-degree driving while impaired	45	2008
Fourth-degree driving while impaired	45	2008
Third-degree sale of cocaine	27	1994
Second-degree possession of a controlled substance	20	2007
Possession of a short-barreled shotgun	20	2007
Dangerous weapons - recklessly handle or use	34	2015
Third-degree possession of a controlled substance	20	2005
Disorderly conduct in a public or private place	26	2011
Theft and second-degree burglary (3 counts)	18	1989
Receiving stolen property	35	2013
Theft by swindle	40	1995
Issuing a worthless check	18	1997
Issuing a worthless check	18	1997

Offense(s)	Age at Time of Offense	Year of Conviction
Issuing a worthless check	18	1996
Issuing a dishonored check	18	1997
Issuing a worthless check	18	1996
Issuing a dishonored check	18	1997
Theft	18	1997
Issuing a worthless check	18	1997
Theft by check	19	1997
Theft	22	2003
Theft	22	2003
Theft by check	23	2002
Issuing a dishonored check	29	2008
Fifth-degree assault	33	2011
Third-degree assault	38	2013
Third-degree driving while impaired & refuse to submit to chemical test	19	2011
4th degree assault of a peace officer - (2 counts)	19	2011
Fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance	18	2011
Failure to appear		
Fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance	19	2011
Fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance	21	2013
Fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance	23	2015
Fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance & third-degree driving while impaired	24	2016
Second-degree possession of a controlled substance	24	2017
Second-degree assault	25	1998
Second-degree and third-degree sale of a controlled substance	30	2007
Disorderly conduct	23	1999
First-degree controlled substance & child endangerment	21	1997
Third-degree burglary	24	2005
Aiding first-degree burglary	17	1995

COMMUTATIONS GRANTED BY BOARD IN 2024

Offense(s)	Age at Time of Offense	Year of Conviction
Aiding first-degree premeditated murder	18	2000
First-degree possession of a controlled substance	24	2015
First-degree premeditated murder and attempted first-degree murder (3 counts)	19	1995

SUMMARY DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

The Commission began collecting demographic data on race, ethnicity, gender, disability status, and age on its statutory effective date on July 1, 2024. Data is collected on a voluntary, self-reported basis using terminology provided by the applicants. The data below does not include applications processed or heard by the Board of Pardons prior to July 1, 2024.

Race and Ethnicity

Applicant Responses	CRC Recommended to Grant Clemency	CRC Recommended to Deny Clemency
Asian	1%	0%
Black/African American	15%	46%
White/Caucasian	28%	15%
Hispanic	5%	0%
Hmong	1%	0%
Multiracial	5%	0%
Response not provided	45%	39%

Gender

Applicant Responses	CRC Recommended to Grant Clemency	CRC Recommended to Deny Clemency
Female	13%	0%
Male	45%	62%
Response not provided	42%	38%

Disability Status

Applicant Responses	CRC Recommended to Grant Clemency	CRC Recommended to Deny Clemency
Disability noted	3%	8%
No disability	23%	38%
Response not provided	74%	54%

Applicant Age

Age on Date of CRC hearing	CRC Recommended to Grant Clemency	CRC Recommended to Deny Clemency
20-29	2%	8%
30-39	25%	8%
40-49	45%	38%
50-59	20%	46%
60-69	5%	0%
70-79	3%	0%