

**2025 LEGISLATIVE REPORT  
MINNESOTA CLEMENCY REVIEW COMMISSION**

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# 2025 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

## MINNESOTA CLEMENCY REVIEW COMMISSION

### **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 is granted to applicants that 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. Relief is granted to applicants with an active sentence.

Pardons may be granted to persons who committed Minnesota crimes, have fully served their sentences, and have waited the applicable waiting period 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.

### **2025 Meetings**

The Board met on January 30, July 9, September 24, and December 17, 2025. The Commission met on February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, August 1, September 5, October 3, November 7, and December 5, 2025.

**APPLICATIONS RECEIVED/HEARD BY THE COMMISSION  
AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN 2025**

<b>Type of Application</b>	<b>Applications Received</b>	<b>Applications Heard</b>	<b>Recommend Grant</b>	<b>Recommend Deny</b>
Pardon	302	145  (2 applications were withdrawn or continued)	128	15
Commutation	99	19  (2 applications were withdrawn or continued)	10	7

**APPLICATIONS GRANTED/DENIED BY THE BOARD IN 2025**

<b>Type of Application</b>	<b>Applications Heard by Board</b>	<b>Grant</b>	<b>Deny</b>
Pardon	140  (5 applications were withdrawn or continued)	121	14
Commutation	18  (2 applications were withdrawn or continued)	9	7

**PARDONS GRANTED BY THE BOARD IN 2025**

<b>Offense(s)</b>	<b>Age at Time of Offense</b>	<b>Year of Conviction</b>
Terroristic threats	20	2011
1 <sup>st</sup> degree drug sales	18	2009
Domestic assault	40	2006
Domestic assault	41	2007
3 <sup>rd</sup> degree controlled substance crime	20	2000
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree assault	22	2004
Terroristic threats	18	2001

Offense(s)	Age at Time of Offense	Year of Conviction
1 <sup>st</sup> degree controlled substance	18	2004
3 <sup>rd</sup> degree assault	28	2002
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree aggravated robbery	19	2006
Prohibited acts (drugs)	27	1986
Drug offenses – unlawful acts	30	1988
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree controlled substance crime	38	1996
Theft	24	2010
Domestic Assault	24	2010
Theft	24	2010
Give peace officer false name	24	2011
Give peace officer false name	27	2013
5 <sup>th</sup> degree assault	25	2013
Theft	27	2014
Theft	27	2014
Theft	27	2015
Fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle	27	2014
Driving under the influence	21	1988
Wrongfully obtaining assistance	26	1992
Domestic assault	41	2005
5 <sup>th</sup> degree controlled substance crime	34	1998
Theft	18	1987
Aggravated forgery, 2 counts	19	1988
Driving while impaired	26	1995
Driving while impaired	29	1999
3 <sup>rd</sup> degree assault	19	1998
Theft of a motor vehicle	19	1998
Financial transaction card fraud	34	2005
Theft	34	2006
Giving peace officer false name	36	2007
Receiving stolen property	40	2011
Motor vehicle registration - operation without registration	40	2012
5 <sup>th</sup> degree assault	36	2001
4 <sup>th</sup> degree driving while impaired	20	2007
5 <sup>th</sup> degree assault	20	2008
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree drug possession	20	2009

<b>Offense(s)</b>	<b>Age at Time of Offense</b>	<b>Year of Conviction</b>
Unemployment benefits – false representation	35	2005
Wrongfully obtaining assistance – theft	25-28	1996
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree manslaughter	24	2009
Predatory offender- registration violation	18	2008
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree controlled substance crime	37	2000
Theft	28	2012
5 <sup>th</sup> degree drug possession	29	2014
Pharmacy – possess legend drugs	29	2014
Pharmacy – possession	30	2014
Pharmacy – legend drugs possession	30	2014
Pharmacy – possess hypodermic syringes / needles	33	2018
5 <sup>th</sup> degree drug possession	32	2018
Theft	18	2003
1 <sup>st</sup> degree aggravated robbery	19	2003
3 <sup>rd</sup> degree assault	37	2017
5 <sup>th</sup> degree drug sales	27	2010
Domestic assault	40	2013
Driving without a valid license	19	2016
Theft	23	2017
1 <sup>st</sup> degree manslaughter	21	2005
Theft	20	2016
Theft	20	2016
Wrongfully obtaining assistance	18	2011
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree drug sales	21	1993
Driving while impaired	17	1988
1 <sup>st</sup> degree driving while impaired	21	2001
Give peace officer false name/birthdate/ID card	24	2003
1 <sup>st</sup> degree controlled substance crime – possession	23	2004
Give false name to police	23	2004
3 <sup>rd</sup> degree drug sales (two counts); 4 <sup>th</sup> degree drugs	25	2011

Offense(s)	Age at Time of Offense	Year of Conviction
3 <sup>rd</sup> degree drug sales	26	2011
5 <sup>th</sup> degree assault	27	2017
3 <sup>rd</sup> degree drug possession	38	2014
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree controlled substance crime – possession	41	2005
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree controlled substance crime – possession	34	1999
5 <sup>th</sup> degree assault	28	1992
5 <sup>th</sup> degree assault	26	1990
5 <sup>th</sup> degree assault	26	1990
4 <sup>th</sup> degree assault – peace officer	25	2000
Terroristic threats	24	1998
3 <sup>rd</sup> degree drug sales	34	2010
3 <sup>rd</sup> degree criminal sexual conduct	18	2002
5 <sup>th</sup> degree domestic assault	20	2003
Theft	36	2013
Theft	36	2013
Violate harassment restraining order	38	2014
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree burglary	39	2016
1 <sup>st</sup> controlled substance sale – lysergic acid	20	1998
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree assault	35	2005
5 <sup>th</sup> degree criminal sexual conduct	19	1993
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree assault	22	2013
Malicious punishment of a child	30	2011
Aid/abet wrongfully obtaining assistance	36	2014
Theft	25	2006
Simple robbery	21	1992
1 <sup>st</sup> degree drug sales	30	2008
Obstruct legal process – interfere with a peace officer; 5 <sup>th</sup> degree assault	49	2018

<b>Offense(s)</b>	<b>Age at Time of Offense</b>	<b>Year of Conviction</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> degree sale of crack cocaine	29	1997
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree drug possession	25	2012
5 <sup>th</sup> degree drug possession	31	2018
5 <sup>th</sup> degree drug possession	33	2019
Driving while impaired	17	2023
3 <sup>rd</sup> degree burglary	32	2019
5 <sup>th</sup> degree drug possession	33	2019
Theft	32	2018
1 <sup>st</sup> degree drug possession	31	2017
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree assault	37	1996
Simple robbery	16	1975
1 <sup>st</sup> degree arson	19	1996
Theft	38	2011
Careless driving	38	2011
Misdemeanor theft	43	2016
5 <sup>th</sup> degree assault	22	2015
Theft	18	2011
5 <sup>th</sup> degree assault, giving peace officer false name	20	2015
Driving while impaired	23	2007
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree driving while impaired	26	2010
4 <sup>th</sup> degree assault - corrections employee	32	2017
Domestic assault	36	2018
Obstruct legal process - interfere with peace officer	32	2016
Violate domestic abuse no contact order	36	2018
Driving while impaired	23	2006
Theft by swindle	31	2004
Check forgery	34	2007
5 <sup>th</sup> degree criminal sexual conduct	42	2009
1 <sup>st</sup> degree witness tampering	43	2009
Failure to yield at sign	41	2007
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree assault	18	1995
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree intentional murder (aid/abet)	18	1994
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree murder (aid/abet)	19	2004

Offense(s)	Age at Time of Offense	Year of Conviction
Forgery	18	1990
Shoplifting	18	1990
Interfere with a 911 call	28	2003
Theft	20	1978
3 <sup>rd</sup> degree assault	38	2002
Driving while impaired – 2 <sup>nd</sup> in five years	20	1989
5 <sup>th</sup> degree assault, 2 counts	23	2018
5 <sup>th</sup> degree assault	23	2018
1 <sup>st</sup> degree burglary; obstruct legal process	23	2017
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree drug possession	21	2000
1 <sup>st</sup> degree controlled substance	27	2006
Possess firearm w/altered serial number	19	1997
Aggravated robbery (aid/abet)	19	1974
Prostitution	26	1997
Driving while impaired	33	2005
Prostitution	34	2006
5 <sup>th</sup> degree controlled substance crime	35	2007
5 <sup>th</sup> degree drug possession	35	2008
5 <sup>th</sup> degree drug possession	42	2016
5 <sup>th</sup> degree drug possession	42	2016
3 <sup>rd</sup> degree drug possession	44	2016
3 <sup>rd</sup> degree controlled substance possession	43	2016
3 <sup>rd</sup> degree controlled substance crime	44	2016
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree assault	26	2013
Possess pistol/assault weapon – conviction of a violent crime within 10 years	23	1990
Possess pistol/assault weapon by ineligible person	24	1992
Aggravated robbery	18	1985
Felon in possession of a pistol	19	1986
Felon in possession of a pistol	19	1986
5 <sup>th</sup> degree assault	23	1990
4 <sup>th</sup> degree burglary	30	2000
Disorderly conduct	32	2000
1 <sup>st</sup> degree drug sales	22	2016

<b>Offense(s)</b>	<b>Age at Time of Offense</b>	<b>Year of Conviction</b>
Disorderly conduct	34	2016
Carry weapons without permit	20	1991
Theft	20	1991
Check forgery – offer a forged check	21	1992
5 <sup>th</sup> degree controlled substance	28	1999
Receiving stolen property	19	1970
Fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle	24	2007
Fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle	25	2007
5 <sup>th</sup> degree drug possession	33	2009
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree drug sale (aid and abet)	38	2016
5 <sup>th</sup> degree assault	28	1995
Aggravated forgery	28	1989
Terroristic threats	44	2011
Theft	30	1997
Attempted 1 <sup>st</sup> degree burglary	37	2008
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree assault with a dangerous weapon	22	2012
5 <sup>th</sup> degree drug possession	30	2013
Drugs - store meth paraphernalia in the presence of child	30	2013
5 <sup>th</sup> degree drug possession	31	2014
Malicious punishment of a child	32	2014
Check forgery	21	1994
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree assault	23	1997
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree assault	19	1991
Theft of personal property	22	1994
Aggravated stalking; Stalking; Domestic assault	43	2011
Theft	18	2020
3 <sup>rd</sup> degree criminal sexual conduct	21	2007
Terroristic threats	19	1994
Offering a forged check	21	1996
1 <sup>st</sup> degree manslaughter	40	2015

<b>Offense(s)</b>	<b>Age at Time of Offense</b>	<b>Year of Conviction</b>
Sale of a controlled substance; conspiracy to sell controlled substance	25	1990
3 <sup>rd</sup> degree criminal sexual conduct	22	1995
Receiving stolen property; fleeing a peace officer	35	2013
Aggravated assault	24	1978
3 <sup>rd</sup> degree assault – substantial bodily harm	18	2010
Domestic assault by strangulation	24	2010
1 <sup>st</sup> degree assault	22	2002
3 <sup>rd</sup> degree damage to property	29	2012
Driving while impaired	26	2009
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree assault	23	1988
4 <sup>th</sup> degree burglary	23	1998
Malicious punishment of a child	40	2015
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree murder – without intent	18	2004
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree possession of methamphetamine	37	2005
Disorderly conduct	35	2007
5 <sup>th</sup> degree controlled substance crime	23	1990
Possession of a pistol by an ineligible person	19	2004
Theft of a motor vehicle	18	2003
1 <sup>st</sup> degree aggravated robbery (conspiracy to commit)	23	2013
3 <sup>rd</sup> degree assault – substantial bodily harm	22	2015
1 <sup>st</sup> degree drug sale	32	2013
Check forgery-offer/possess w/intent to defraud	24	2006
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree assault	24	2001
1 <sup>st</sup> degree aggravated robbery	18	2003
1 <sup>st</sup> degree burglary	18	2003
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree assault	18	2000

<b>Offense(s)</b>	<b>Age at Time of Offense</b>	<b>Year of Conviction</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> degree assault; 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree assault	36	1994
Give false name to police	19	2002
3 <sup>rd</sup> degree controlled substance - sale	19	2002
3 <sup>rd</sup> degree controlled substance - possess	20	2003
Check forgery	20	2003
Give false name to police	18	2001
Possess marijuana in a motor vehicle; give false name to police	20	2004
5 <sup>th</sup> degree drug possession	20	2005
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree drug sales; 1 <sup>st</sup> degree drug sales	23	2007
1 <sup>st</sup> degree criminal damage to property	18	1990
1 <sup>st</sup> degree burglary	22	1993
1 <sup>st</sup> degree driving while impaired	32	2003
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree controlled substance crime - possession	41	2010
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree assault	23	2012
Domestic assault	25	2004
1 <sup>st</sup> degree burglary	47	1998

### **COMMUTATIONS GRANTED BY BOARD IN 2025**

<b>Offense(s)</b>	<b>Age at Time of Offense</b>	<b>Year of Conviction</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree intentional murder	22	2005
Attempted 1 <sup>st</sup> degree premeditated murder	21	1994
1 <sup>st</sup> degree murder with intent while committing a felony	19	1994
1 <sup>st</sup> degree premeditated murder (aid/abet)	35	2001
3 <sup>rd</sup> degree criminal sexual conduct	18	2014
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree intentional murder	27	2009
1 <sup>st</sup> degree murder; 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree murder – drive-by shooting	14	2001
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree murder; kidnapping; first degree attempted murder; 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree assault	33	1990
2 <sup>nd</sup> degree murder	18	2007

## SUMMARY DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

The Commission began collecting demographic data on race, ethnicity, gender, disability status, and age on its statutory effective date of July 1, 2024. Data is collected on a voluntary, self-reported basis using terminology provided by the applicants.

### Race and Ethnicity

Applicant Responses	CRC Recommended to Grant Clemency	CRC Recommended to Deny Clemency
African	0	2
American Indian/Native American	5	1
Asian	1	0
Black/African American	33	6
Caucasian/White	31	6
Ethiopian	3	0
Hispanic/Latino	2	0
Hmong	7	0
Indian	1	0
Marhsallese	1	0
Multiracial	3	0
Somali	1	0
Sudanese	1	0
Response not provided	49	7

### Gender

Applicant Responses	CRC Recommended to Grant Clemency	CRC Recommended to Deny Clemency
Female	30	1
Male	63	15
Response not provided	45	6

### Disability Status

<b>Applicant Responses</b>	<b>CRC Recommended to Grant Clemency</b>	<b>CRC Recommended to Deny Clemency</b>
Disability noted	10	2
No disability	36	5
Response not provided	92	15

### Applicant Age

<b>Age on Date of CRC hearing</b>	<b>CRC Recommended to Grant Clemency</b>	<b>CRC Recommended to Deny Clemency</b>
18-19	1	0
20-29	4	0
30-39	27	5
40-49	44	4
50-59	41	8
60-69	16	5
70-79	5	0