“The state cannot show a compelling interest in

disfranchising persons on parole and probation.

The state interest in rehabilitation of offenders

codified in N.J.S.A. 2C:1-2(b) negates any claim

that disfranchisement of persons on parole and

probation serves a legitimate government interest.”

*Frank Askin, Esq.*

“The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority

of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic

and general elections which shall be by universal and equal

suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by

equivalent free voting procedures.”

*Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 21, §3*

“Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of

all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteous, defend the

rights of the poor and needy.” *Prov. 31:8-9*

“Then the king will say to those at his right hand,

‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit

the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;

for I was hungry and you gave me food,

I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,

I was a stranger and you welcomed me,

I was naked and you gave me clothing,

I was sick and you took care of me,

I was in prison and you visited me.’

Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least

of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

*Matt. 25:34-36, 40*

“God has created the peoples of the earth to be one

universal family. In his reconciling love, God overcomes

the barriers between sisters and brothers and breaks down

every form of discrimination based on racial or ethnic

difference, real or imaginary. The church is called

to bring all people to receive and uphold one another as

persons in all relationships of life: in employment, housing, education, leisure, marriage, family, church, and the exercise

of political rights. Therefore, the church labors for the abolition

of all racial discrimination and ministers to those injured by it.”

*The Confession of 1967, §4.1*

 “We believe that God has revealed himself as the one who

wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;

…that the church must therefore stand by people in any form

of suffering and need, which implies, among other things,

that the church must witness against and strive against any form

of injustice and with the wronged….” *Belhar Confession, §4*

 “Judaism teaches that all human beings are created in the

image of God. Even when we make big mistakes, such as committing a felony, the spark of the Holy One within us

helps us change. As rabbis, our Jewish faith and culture

compel us to recognize the power of atonement. We are a

faith and a people who believe everyone deserves

a second chance. Moreover, our history has taught us how

dangerous it is when the government silences citizens and

prohibits them from fully participating in civic society.”

*Rabbis Michael Torop and Jason Rosenberg*

“The right to vote speaks to our country’s expression of morals

and values more than the practical application of political power.

Christian and other faith leaders should join together in restoring

the right to vote to all.” *Craig DeRoche, Prison Fellowship*

“To deny anyone a fair vote is a sin.”

218th General Assembly, *Lift Every Voice*, p. 5

“RESOLVED, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America call upon local, state, and federal governments to guarantee the right of vote to all citizens and to discourage or eliminate all laws, ordinances or regulations that would have the effect of racial and ethnic discrimination in the exercise of that right; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Presiding Bishop and synodical bishops of this church be urged to support publically [sic] and stand as an advocate to proposed local, state, or federal legislation and regulations that, consistent with this church’s social teaching, seek to guarantee to all citizens the right to vote; … and be it further

RESOLVED, that members, congregations, and synods of this church be encouraged to ‘promote public life worthy of the name’ by speaking out as an advocate and engaging in local efforts such as voter registration and supporting legislation to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens…”

 *Social Policy Resolution CA 13.06.29, 2013*