* **The national and international**

 **picture:**

* + Approximately 6.1 million Americans nationwide cannot vote because of their felony convictions
	+ Three states (~~Florida~~, Iowa, & Kentucky) impose a lifetime voting ban on all felons
	+ Two states (Maine & Vermont) never take away the vote from any felon, not even prisoners
	+ The U.S. stands out from the community of democratic nations for systematically disenfranchising felons who are not incarcerated
	+ Canada and almost half of European countries permit all incarcerated person to vote
	+ South Africa’s Constitutional Court has ruled, “The vote of each and every citizen is a badge of dignity and of personhood.”
* **Facts about disenfranchisement in**

**New Jersey:**

* + New Jersey prohibits everyone convicted of a 1st-4th degree crime from voting while incarcerated, on parole, or on probation, but permits them to vote after the term of state supervision ends, resulting in the following numbers of persons so disenfranchised:
		- 19,453 prisoners
		- 15,602 parolees
		- 61, 112 probationers
* **New Jersey compared to nearby**

**states:**

* + Delaware is the only other state in the region with the same degree of voter disenfranchisement as New Jersey
	+ New Jersey is an outlier from almost all other states in the region:
		- Parolees and probationers may vote in Maryland, Massachusetts, New York (partial for parolees), and Pennsylvania
		- Probationers may vote in Connecticut
		- New Jersey disenfranchises more people living in the community on parole or probation than any other state in the Northeast
* **Disproportionate impact of felony**

 **disenfranchisement on communities**

**of color:**

* + Blacks constitute 12.5% of America’s population, but 50% of all prisoners
	+ One in seven Black men (and one in thirteen Black adults) in the USA is denied the right to vote
	+ Blacks constitute about 15% of New Jersey’s overall population, but they represent slightly over 50% of persons who have lost their voting rights
	+ New Jersey has the highest disparity in Black/white incarceration rates in the United States for both adults and youth—12:1 and more than 30:1, respectively
* **New Jersey has an ugly history of**

**Racism that provides a context for the racist dimensions of felon disenfranchisement:**

* + New Jersey was the first state in the north to limit voting to white male citizens who were 21 years old or older (1807)
	+ New Jersey first disenfranchised persons with criminal convictions in 1844, the same year the right to vote was restricted to white men
	+ New Jersey opposed the Emancipation Proclamation
	+ New Jersey was the last northern state to abolish slavery
	+ New Jersey refused to ratify the Reconstruction Amendments after the Civil War