

Why deny felons the right to vote? The topic of disenfranchising felons has been a highly debated issue. In this ongoing debate, it is apparent that the proponents' argument is much stronger than the opponents' argument because they prove that restricting voting rights to non-violent felons is unjustifiable; it is unequal; and it takes away their freedom in society.

Firstly, the proponents' argument is stronger than the opponents' argument because they prove that restricting voting rights to nonviolent felons is unjustifiable. For instance, the proponents state that "No citizen should be denied voting rights after completing their prison sentence. It creates an unjust, permanent restriction." (1) This shows that it is wrong to deny felons their voting rights because it takes away their freedom of expression by restricting them from participating in the voting process and reestablishing themselves as active members of society.

Secondly, the proponents have a stronger argument in favor of reinstating felons than their opponents because they prove that denying voting rights to felons is unequal. For example, the proponents claim that "While racial minorities make up approximately 30% of the U.S. population, they comprise 60% of the prison population. (2) This illustrates that it is unfair to deny felons their voting rights because disenfranchisement mostly targets racial minorities at a disproportionately higher rate than other felons, and it perpetuates racial discrimination by denying them access to their constitutional right.

On the contrary, the opponents believe that denying felons their voting rights is reasonable. They state "A felon has shown criminal judgment, and that is a rational reason for restricting voting rights." (6) However, the proponents have a stronger argument than the opponents because they claim that "once a citizen has completed a sentence, that person's right should be reinstated. The U.S. justice system is far from perfect." (2) This indicates that a felon who has completed a full prison sentence has paid his debt to society, and therefore, should have access to his voting rights.

In summary, the proponents' argument to reinstate felons' voting rights is better supported than the opponent's argument. The proponents prove that it is unjust to restrict a non-violent felon from casting a ballot. They also prove that disenfranchisement is unfair since it targets minorities, and deprives felons of their freedom to vote. It is also undemocratic to deny a felon his voting right since by the end of a prison sentence, the felon has paid the debt that society has dictated.