

Proposed Platform on Gubernatorial Restoration of Voting Rights

Clear and Public Criteria

- Clear and public statement of the standards the Governor applies in making restoration decisions, including factors that result in immediate disqualification, in addition to a comprehensive list of the reasons why an application might otherwise be denied
- Clear and public disclosure of the types of information gathered from specific agencies of the Commonwealth in reviewing applications
- Clear and public assurance that the following are NOT taken into account, including a clear statement of what specific steps are being taken to ensure these factors do not influence restoration decisions either intentionally or unintentionally:
 - Voting history
 - Race or other demographic or geographic proxies for race
 - Any other factors that could result in a disparate impact on people of color

Clear Communication with Applicants

- For applicants:
 - Clear direction on the standards of review utilized in the restoration decision
 - Clear direction on the information that applicants must provide and steps they must take to meet the enumerated requirements, including anything they can do to help inform the restoration decision beyond what is required and what is in their record
 - Clear commitment that nominal or immaterial errors (such as transcription errors or inadvertent omission of basic information) in an application, whether by the applicant or the Restoration Office, will be promptly cured and not serve as the cause for denial and require the process to re-start in full
- For those whose applications are denied:
 - Clear explanation of the reason why their application has been denied
 - Clear explanation of any available process for appeal or review of their denial
 - Clear explanation of whether and when the applicant may re-apply and expect their application to be granted
 - Clear explanation of the steps the applicant must take to re-apply successfully, including the relevant state resources available to help facilitate the re-application process

Prompt and Transparent Processing of Applications

- Clear and concrete commitment to:
 - Providing an overview of the expected processing time of an individual's application and a dashboard or hotline to receive status updates
 - Completing review and making a decision on each application within 60 days of receipt
 - Establishing an outside time limit of 120 days by when each application must be decided
- Monthly public disclosure of:
 - Number of applications received
 - Number of applications decided
 - Number of applications denied, including subtotals with number denied for particular reasons