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**PARDONS in PENNSYLVANIA**

***Did You Know?***

The Pennsylvania pardon process is **free** and **does not require a lawyer.**

A pardon is a powerful tool for people who deserve a second chance. A pardon **erases your record like it never existed so that you will never have to “check the box” again.** Pardons allow people to get better jobs, education, housing, and opportunities which help them, their families, and their communities.

**Though there are no hard-and-fast rules for who gets a pardon**, from having watched hundreds of votes, **successful pardon applicants**:

* have fully completed their sentence (not on probation or parole)
* have not been arrested in the past 5 years (10 years if any crime involved sex or violence more significant than simple assault)
* can show they’ve turner their lives around – through letters of recommendation, certificates, diplomas, success at work, etc.
* have done things to help others

***80% of people who get a hearing before the PA Board of Pardons actually end up with a pardon!***

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**Need Help or Want More Information?**

 **Pardon Project of Washington County**

[**www.spla.org/pardon**](http://www.spla.org/pardon)

**email us: PardonMe@splas.org**

 **And be sure to register to vote, because**

***YOU CAN VOTE in PA!***

[**www.vote.pa.gov**](http://www.vote.pa.gov)

***Not everyone will be eligible for a pardon or for free legal help in applying.***