



# OLR RESEARCH REPORT

July 11, 2012

2012-R-0312

## CONSEQUENCES OF A FELONY CONVICTION ON THE RIGHT TO HOLD PUBLIC OFFICE

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You asked whether a person who is convicted of a felony may hold public office as a member of the Connecticut General Assembly.

A person forfeits his or her right to be an elector, and all accompanying electoral privileges, upon conviction of a felony and commitment to any state or federal prison. These privileges include the right to vote, run for public office, and hold an office (CGS § [9-46](#)).

But the law allows these rights to be restored after a felon has paid all fines and completed any required prison and parole time (CGS § [9-46a](#)). (A person convicted of an election-related crime under Title 9 of the General Statutes must also complete any probation time.) This means that a former felon who meets these requirements and is otherwise qualified for admission as an elector may run for and hold public office as a General Assembly member after registering to vote.

For more information on how electoral status and privileges are restored, see "[Restoration of Voting Rights of Convicted Felons](#)," on the secretary of the state's website.

### HYPERLINK

Connecticut Secretary of the State, "Restoration of Voting Rights of Convicted Felons,"

[http://www.sots.ct.gov/sots/lib/sots/electionservices/hava/havapdf/the\\_ultimate\\_freedom.pdf](http://www.sots.ct.gov/sots/lib/sots/electionservices/hava/havapdf/the_ultimate_freedom.pdf)