

**THE GARDEN STATE BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY SUPPORTS NEW JERSEY BILL NUMBER S-2100, WHICH WILL RESTORE THE RIGHT TO VOTE TO NEARLY 100,000 PEOPLE WHO ARE EITHER IN PRISON, ON PAROLE, OR ON PROBATION**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 29, 2019

The Garden State Bar Association supports New Jersey Senate Bill Number S-2100, as it will restore the fundamental right to vote to nearly 100,000 New Jersey citizens who are either in prison, on parole, or on probation. While African Americans represent only 15% of the New Jersey's population, African Americans represent nearly 50% of those currently unable to vote as a result of this ban. Under this bill, the right of these citizens to meaningfully participate in the representative government will be restored. Historically, denial of access to the vote and improper and illegal constraints on voting have precluded African Americans from being able to exercise this constitutional right.

If this bill becomes law, it will underscore the centerpiece of criminal justice is rehabilitation, and, specifically, that those who are subject to the criminal justice system are able to and should contribute to society.

On January 31, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. in Committee Room 4, 1st Floor, State House Annex, Trenton, New Jersey, an informational hearing will be held by the Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation Committee relating to restoring voting rights. We encourage full and active participation of the GSBA community at this hearing where testimony will be taken regarding this bill and others seeking to correct voter disenfranchisement in New Jersey.