



RHODE ISLAND PAROLE BOARD FACT SHEET

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Website: <https://paroleboard.ri.gov/>

Office Hours M-F 8:30am-4:00pm

Response may be delayed outside of office hours

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Rhode Island Parole Board is to enhance public safety, contribute to the prudent use of public resources, and consider the safe and successful re-entry of offenders through discretionary parole.

RHODE ISLAND LAWS ON PAROLE

(R.I. Gen. Laws § 13-8-1 et. seq.)

Under Rhode Island law, the parole board evaluates and considers the discretionary and conditional early release of sentenced persons serving a term at the Rhode Island ACI of more than six (6) months. Life without parole and habitual offender sentences are not eligible for parole.

The parole board meets five (5) times monthly and members are scheduled to sit in panels of three (3) when considering cases (RIGL 13-8-3(d)).

The board may, by *majority* vote, issue a parole permit after an eligible person has served at least 1/3 of their sentence. Consecutive sentences are aggregated to determine initial parole eligibility.

Life sentence cases require a *unanimous* vote for parole release. Initial parole eligibility on life and lengthy sentences is determined by RIGL 13-8-9, 13-8-10, and 13-8-13. The RI Department of Corrections (RI DOC) calculates initial parole eligibility on sentences imposed by the court and then sends a list of eligible persons to the board for scheduling.

Medical and geriatric parole may be granted in certain cases at any time during an inmate's sentence, except for inmate's serving life without parole.

Victims, non-offending parents of minor victims, and an immediate family member of deceased victims have a right to address the parole board prior to the board's consideration of a case. Notification is mailed in advance of scheduled hearings.

The board publishes monthly in the newspaper and on its website a list of those inmates scheduled for parole consideration. Anyone may write in to offer comment on a parole candidate. After hearings, decisions of the parole board are posted on the RI Secretary of State website.

Persons released to parole are supervised by a parole officer from the DOC. If a parolee violates any terms and conditions of parole while in the community, they may be detained and returned to the ACI, and subject to a parole revocation hearing by the parole board.

Please go to <https://paroleboard.ri.gov/> for more information, board guidelines, and links to statutes and resources

MEMBERSHIP

By statute, the Parole Board is made up of seven (7) members appointed by the Governor: one (1) fulltime chairperson and six (6) part-time members.

Four (4) of the members must meet the following qualifications:

- member of law enforcement
- psychiatrist/psychologist
- experience in social work/corrections
- attorney in good standing

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Laura A. Pisaturo, Esq., Chairperson
Victoria M. Almeida, Esq., Vice-Chairperson
Bonita Cade, PhD., JD
Marilyn Cepeda
Tonya Glantz, PhD
Jill Harrison, PhD
Captain Dennis O'Brien, Providence PD

PAROLE VS. PROBATION

Parole is discretionary release by a parole board for a person to serve the balance of their prison sentence in the community under supervision. Conditions of parole are set by the parole board. Persons on parole are supervised by a parole officer, they must have a stable home and employment plan and comply with all conditions set by the parole board, including regular drug and alcohol screening. After a person completes parole, they may also have continued supervision on probation. Probation is either an alternative to prison or follows the prison portion of a sentence imposed by a judge. Conditions of probation are set by the judge. Persons on probation are supervised by a probation officer from the RI DOC.

CURRENT STATISTICS

CY	Total Applications	Parole Hearings*	Granted	Denied	Annual Parole Rate (Avg)
2022	665	564	171	393	31%
2023	700	618	222	390	36%
2024	686	585	192	392	33%
2025	650	586	223	359	39%

**incl. medical parole*

Approximately 75% of the sentenced ACI population are parole eligible. Parole violators account for just under 4% of recidivists (CY2022 cohort) returning to the ACI while on parole. This represents more than a 2% decline from the CY2019 cohort and is the lowest rate ever recorded. The average time to sentenced recommitment for those returning for a violation was just over 1 year (376 days). Source: RI DOC Annual Recidivism Brief <https://doc.ri.gov/node/681>