



RHODE ISLAND PAROLE BOARD FACT SHEET

MEDIA CONTACT INFORMATION

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

Most inmates are eligible for parole after they have served at least one-third (1/3) of their sentence. On murder, life and lengthy sentence cases and some consecutive sentences, the amount of time an inmate must serve before initial parole consideration may be longer than 1/3 (of the sentence). The Department of Corrections 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.

The parole board meets five times monthly. Members sit in panels of four (4) and decisions are made by a *majority* vote of the panel. Parole from LIFE sentence cases must be by *unanimous* vote.

Victims, non-offending parents of minor victims and immediate family members of deceased victims have a right to address the parole board prior to the board's consideration of a case.

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. All decisions of the parole board are posted to the RI Secretary of State website.

Persons released to parole are supervised by a parole officer from the Department of Corrections. 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.

See our website for more information

MEMBERSHIP

The Parole Board is composed of seven (7) members appointed by the Governor, one (1) fulltime chairperson and six (6) part-time members.

Four 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

Chairperson: Laura A. Pisaturo, Esq.

Members: Victoria M. Almeida, Esq.

Bonita Cade, PhD., JD

Marilyn Cepeda

Anne Nolan, PhD.

Major Oscar Perez

Peter Slom, LICSW

PAROLE VS. PROBATION

Parole is the supervised early release from the prison portion of a sentence, and it is granted by a parole board. Parole allows the inmate to finish their sentence within the community. 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. Persons on parole are supervised by a parole officer from the Community Corrections Division of the RI Department of Corrections. After a person completes parole, they may also have continued supervision on probation.

Probation is either an alternative to jail or follows the jail 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 Community Corrections Division of the RI Department of Corrections.

CURRENT STATISTICS

- The Rhode Island Parole Board meets 5 times each month to consider approximately 80-100 cases
- In CY20, the Rhode Island Parole Board granted conditional parole in approximately 37% of cases
- There are approximately 295 persons on active parole supervision in Rhode Island
- The CY17-CY20 RI parole recidivism rate was approximately 7%
<http://www.doc.ri.gov/news-info/research-data.php>