

News Clip: Felon voting rights restored in Minnesota

1000s of more people will be able to cast ballots in the next election. That's because of a new law allowing felons to vote as soon as they leave prison. Botstein troubles and joins us now with more as some registered to vote today. Rob,

you know, over a month 1000s of Minnesota law change to allow those who've been convicted of felonies been released from prison, but still under supervision, the right to vote. There's efforts to remind people of this change but today the League of Women Voters and some state officials, another effort from them to again get this message out. In the hallway of the federal courthouse in Minneapolis, the League of Women Voters set up in the information table as part of the campaign to remind 10s of 1000s of Minnesotans who couldn't vote before that they can now so we're excited about the momentum. And getting the word out we know is really, really important. This is one of six such sites where they're doing this also with courthouses and libraries in major cities across the state. So that felons who have been released from custody but remain on probation understand that as of June 1, the law changed to their voting rights restored.

We know that people who are more connected to their communities engaged with their communities actually are less risk of coming back into the system and that is an important public safety objective.

Signed into law in March that was through the vote. Bush had been two decades in the making, gave voting rights back to some 55,000 Minnesotans who are on supervised release for a felony but they know that there remains confusion that we are doing nothing more than educating, while simultaneously collect connecting persons under supervision with a local community resource ie the League of Women Voters. The new law is now being challenged in court by a conservative group who argue the Constitution requires a full felony sentence be served, including probation, but while that plays out, they say the law is still changed. It's full steam ahead. We're implementing this law as the legislature and the governor intended and as the law commands us to do so we're doing that. Secretary of State Steve Simon they're saying he's pretty confident that the constitutional language she's on the side of the new law in this lawsuit challenging it will not prevail, but again, that is still going through the court process. Now these sort of pop up information registration sites, the League of Women Voters will continue. They'll move around a little bit at various locations, but they say they want to get people registered and to remind them to they can also just do so online and men votes.org. Live in Minneapolis rebels box You