

People's Campaign



Parole Justice

WHY NEW YORK NEEDS PAROLE JUSTICE

- In New York, there is a moral and fiscal crisis of aging and dying in prisons due to decades of extremely harsh sentencing and a racially-biased parole system that values vengeance and endless punishment above redemption and personal transformation.
- Even as the state's overall prison population has declined, the percentage of incarcerated people who are older adults has increased. One-in-four are 50 or older. The vast majority are Black and brown people.
- With roughly 9,000 New Yorkers serving life sentences, our state ranks among the harshest in the nation, surpassing states like Texas and Georgia.
- Most victims and survivors of crime prioritize rehabilitation over long prison sentences.
- Research shows older people, especially those who were convicted of serious crimes, have the lowest reincarceration rates of any age cohort, posing little to no risk.
- New York spends between \$100,000 and \$240,000 annually per older adult in prison (compared to \$60,000 for other incarcerated people). This is money that could instead be invested in resources that deliver real community health and safety.
- That is why New York must reform its parole system by passing Elder Parole (S.15/A.3475) and Fair & Timely Parole (S.1415/A.4231) and ensuring that all people have a fair and meaningful opportunity to demonstrate their rehabilitation and be released.