

Voting Rights Restoration



- A California judge stripped David Rector of his voting rights in 2011. David wants them back.
- A new law entitles David and others with disabilities to vote if they express a desire to vote.
- 30,000 or more Californians like David have been illegally disqualified from voting.
- Spectrum Institute filed a class action complaint with the Department of Justice (DOJ) in 2014.
- The complaint said judges were using a literacy test in violation of federal voting rights laws.
- The DOJ opened a statewide investigation in 2015 focusing on these judicial practices.
- The Legislature acted quickly and passed SB 589 to eliminate the literacy test effective 1-1-16.
- Spectrum Institute is asking the DOJ to make California restore the rights of these thousands.
- Seniors and adults with developmental disabilities are among those who have been victimized.
- The courts are not taking pro-active steps to notify victims they can ask for their rights back.
- David is providing an example to others by going to court to reclaim his voting rights.
- People do not need an attorney to do this. They can write to the court and say “I want to vote.”
- The court has a duty to process these requests as soon as they are received – without delay.
- Once an order of restoration is entered, the registrar of voters must reinstate the voting rights.
- People whose rights are restored must register by October 24 to qualify to vote on Nov. 8.
- Senior and disability groups can receive these requests and forward them to the court.
- Name, conservatorship case number, “I want to vote” and a signature is all that is required.
- The DOJ, Secretary of State, Registrar of Voters, and media can help spread the word.
- As Americans, people with disabilities are entitled to equal rights, including the right to vote.

