Felon Disenfranchisement: Jim Crow Redux

- Percent of all voting age Americans in 2000 disenfranchised by reason of a felony conviction: 2.3%

Disenfranchisement impacts African-American men most heavily
- Number of states in 2000 that disenfranchised more than 10% of their African-American population: 16
- Percent of African-American men of voting age who were in prison in 2000 and barred by state law from voting: 5%
- Percent of African-American men in 2000 who were disenfranchised by various state laws that prohibit people with current or past felony convictions from voting: 13.1%

Methods of disenfranchisement vary between states
- Number of states that deny the vote, for life, to all people with felony convictions even if they have completed their sentences: 3
- Number of states that deny the vote to some or all of their citizens who have completed their sentences: 9
- Number of states that disenfranchise prisoners convicted of a felony: 48
- Number of states that disenfranchise felony probationers: 31
- Number of states that disenfranchise people on parole: 36

History
- Year the Civil War ends, and the states of the former Confederacy put under military rule: 1865
- Number of African-Americans elected to state legislatures in states of the former Confederacy, 1872: 324
- Year federal troops left the South and Reconstruction ends: 1877
- Year Mississippi passes state constitution disenfranchising citizens convicted of crimes thought more likely to be committed by African-Americans: 1890
- Number of African-Americans elected to state legislatures in states of the former Confederacy, 1900: 0
- Year a federal court ruled that felon disenfranchisement does not bear “the taint of historically-rooted racial discrimination”: 1985

The "modern" era
- In the year 2000, percent of voting age population that is African-American: 11.4%
- In the year 2000, percent of state legislators that are African-American: 7.7%

2 (Alabama, Arizona, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.) See Ibid, p. 798. (Some states have since changed their laws, but updated figures are not yet available.)
3 Calculation based on U.S. Census and Bureau of Justice Statistics data.
4 Sentencing Project & Human Rights Watch, Losing the Vote, October 1998, p. 9
6 (Alabama, Arizona, Delaware, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, Tennessee, Wyoming) Ibid.
7 (All states and the District of Columbia except for Maine and Vermont) Ibid.
8 Ibid
9 Ibid
12 Ibid., 538
14 Shapiro, p. 540-541, n. 19-20.
17 Calculation based on, Ibid., Table 6.