



RHODE ISLAND PAROLE BOARD FACT SHEET

MEDIA CONTACT INFORMATION

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island law, the parole board evaluates and considers the discretionary and conditional early release of sentenced inmates who are serving a term at the Rhode Island 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 RI Department of Corrections (RI DOC) 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 (5) 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 an immediate family member 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 DOC. 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 the Parole Board website for more information, board guidelines, and links to statutes and resources <https://paroleboard.ri.gov/>

MEMBERSHIP

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

Four (4) 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

Laura A. Pisaturo, Esq., *Chairperson*
Victoria M. Almeida, Esq.
Bonita Cade, PhD., JD
Marilyn Cepeda
Tonya Glantz, PhD
Major Timothy O'Hara, Providence PD
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 DOC. 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 DOC.

CURRENT STATISTICS

CY	Total Applications	Parole Hearings*	Granted	Denied	Annual Parole Rate (Avg)
2019	809	659	272	387	41%
2020	911	775	282	493	37%
2021	730	613	251	362	41%
2022	665	564	171	393	31%

**incl. medical parole*

Approximately 50% of the sentenced ACI population are parole-eligible. Awaiting trial population is not eligible for parole. Parole violators account for approximately 6% of recidivists (CY2019 cohort) returning to the ACI while on parole. Of those returning for violation, 23% returned due to a new arrest. Source: RI DOC Annual Recidivism Brief <https://doc.ri.gov/node/681>