

# State Clemency Resources

## Which form(s) of clemency does the state offer?

There are two forms of petitions. The first is a petition for reprieve, commutation or pardon. The second is a petition for the restoration of the right to engage in political office.

## Decisionmaker

The Clemency and Pardon Board receives petitions from individuals, organizations and the Department of Corrections for commutation of sentences and pardoning of offenders and, in some instances, for the restoration of the right to engage in political office.

Based on its review, the Board makes recommendations to the Governor.

### Resources:

- [governor.wa.gov/boards-commissions/clemency-pardons-board](https://governor.wa.gov/boards-commissions/clemency-pardons-board)
- [governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/March%20packet.pdf](https://governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/March%20packet.pdf)
- [governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/Clemency%20and%20Pardons%20Board%20Policy%20Adopted%2003092018.pdf](https://governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/Clemency%20and%20Pardons%20Board%20Policy%20Adopted%2003092018.pdf)

## Constitutional and statutory authority

- **Constitutional Authority:** Washington State Constitution, Article III, Section 9, provides the Governor the authority to grant pardons.
- **Statutory Authority:** RCW 9.94A.885, RCW 10.01.120, RCW 9.94A.885(1), RCW 9.94A.885(2)

## Eligibility Criteria

The petitioner is responsible for submitting information and supporting documentation that demonstrates extraordinary circumstances warranting relief.

## Application Process

It is not a requirement for any petitioner to attend the clemency hearing, although in most cases, the Members of the Board will have questions about the Petition or the underlying case which could bear weight on the Board Member's decision on whether or not to vote to recommend the requested relief. Consequently, it is highly recommended that the Petitioner attend the hearing.

### APPLICATION LINKS

- 🔗 **Application for Reprieve, Commutation, or Pardon:** [governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-01/2018%20Form-PetitionForClemency.pdf](https://governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-01/2018%20Form-PetitionForClemency.pdf)
- 🔗 **Instructions:** [governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-01/2018-Clemency-and-Pardons-Instructions.pdf](https://governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-01/2018-Clemency-and-Pardons-Instructions.pdf)
- 🔗 **Application for Restoration of Rights:** If you believe a petition asking the Board for a certificate of restoration limited to engaging in political office is necessary due to unique circumstances, please email [CPBoard@atg.wa.gov](mailto:CPBoard@atg.wa.gov) to explain the circumstances and request a copy of Petition B.