



## What is the Ohio Parole Board?

The [Ohio Parole Board](#), comprised of 12 members appointed by the Director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) and housed within ODRC's Adult Parole Authority (APA), conducts hearings to determine whether incarcerated people eligible for parole should be released. The board also reviews [clemency applications](#) submitted by incarcerated people for death penalty and non-death penalty offenses. After conducting hearings on those applications, the Board submits a recommendation to the Governor. The Governor is not required to follow the Board's recommendation, though.

The Ohio Parole Board has significant discretion over death row and the size of the prison population as a whole. The Board's recommendations to the Governor on clemency applications, while not binding, also carry weight.

## Who Can Serve on the Board?

[State law](#) requires members of the Board to have experience “in correctional work, including law enforcement, prosecution of offenses, advocating for the rights of victims of crime, probation, or parole, in law, in social work, or in a combination of the three categories.” The only exception applies to the Board's Victim Representative, who must be a crime victim, the family member of a victim, or a representative of an organization that advocates for victims.

## How Long Do Members Serve?

Board members serve six-year terms with the exceptions of the Victim Representative, who serves a four-year term, and the Chairperson, who serves until the ODRC Director designates a successor.

## How Can I Contact the Board?

Anyone—whether you are reaching out on behalf of an incarcerated person, a victim, or both—can [contact the Board](#) to make their voice heard. The Board suggests doing so via its website form or written correspondence.

Registered victims of crime also can schedule a conference with a Board member or representative within 60 days of an incarcerated person's next scheduled board hearing, as can family or other interested parties reaching out in support of an incarcerated person. Live and archived hearings conducted by the Ohio Parole Board are viewable to the public via The Ohio Channel.