



## Board of Parole

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Iowa Board of Parole

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# **Board of Parole Budget Presentation**

Iowa House Justice System Appropriations  
Subcommittee

# ABOUT THE BOARD – 11 FTE

Five full time board members.

- Board members serve staggered 4 year terms, except for members appointed to fill vacancies who serve the balance of the unexpired term.
- The Governor shall appoint a member as the chairperson of the board, subject to Senate confirmation.

Six staff – full time state employees.

- Two administrative law judges
- Three liaison officers
- One administrative secretary

# Statutory Mandate

“The board shall release on parole... any person whom it has the power to so release, when in its opinion there is reasonable probability that the person can be released without detriment to the community or to the person.” Iowa Code § 906.4(1)

- The Board only has the power to release those without a life sentence or mandatory minimum, or where the mandatory minimum has expired

“The board at least annually shall review the status of a person [who is eligible for parole].”  
Iowa Code § 906.5(1)(a)

“It is the intent of the general assembly that the board shall implement a plan of early release in an effort to assist in controlling the prison population and assuring prison space for the confinement of offenders whose release would be detrimental to the citizens of this state.” Iowa Code § 906.5(2)

# Mandate Implemented

- The Board typically receives 100-300 weekly recommendations from the Department of Corrections to release or not release offenders
- A panel of three board members reviews each recommendation, which is accompanied by an offender's docket, and a host of other information provided by Corrections. An offender must receive at least three member votes to be released
- The Board typically holds up to 20 offender interviews each week. The board interviews an offender before potential release when a victim of the offender registers under Chapter 915, or when the Board otherwise feels it is necessary
- The administrative rules of the Board of Parole provide factors that a board panel may consider before making a decision to release or deny. See IAC 205-8.10(906)

# Release Decision Statistics

Release Decisions	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Parole	2,646	2,658	3,488
Work Release	824	1,005	1,202
Special Sentence	513	479	551
Release Denied	4,912	5,024	4,702
Appeals Denied	1,287	1,021	824
Appeals with Modification	11	6	21
Interview Granted	544	560	417
Other/Miscellaneous	517	475	692
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,254</b>	<b>11,228</b>	<b>11,897</b>

# Special Review Decisions Statistics

Special Review Decisions	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Amend Decision	413	354	533
Paroles Rescinded	123	108	81
Work Release Rescinded	79	85	58
Special Sentence Rescinded	9	9	18
Special Review Denied	19	13	36
Total Special Review Decisions	643	569	726

# Executive Clemency Decisions Statistics

Executive Clemency	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Commutation Decisions	29	104	30
Commutation Reviewed by BOP	51	82	23
Pardon Decisions	7	2	5
Pardon Reviewed by BOP	23	14	19
Firearm Restoration Decisions	22	24	24
Firearm Restoration Reviewed by BOP	52	47	47
Firearm Restoration/Pardon Decisions	18	18	20
Firearm Restoration/Pardon Reviewed by BOP	45	35	35



# Parole Revocations

The parole revocation process begins with a parole officer filing a violation report. The alleged violator is notified to appear before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) to determine whether they are in violation of the terms of their parole agreement.

An ALJ may impose the following sanctions if a parolee violates the terms of their agreement:

- Reinstatement of parole
- Reinstatement of parole with additional conditions imposed (ex: GPS monitoring, substance abuse evaluation or other treatment program)
- Revocation of parole to a work release program
- Revocation of parole and return to prison

ALJs do not hear cases involving parolees sentenced to prison for new felonies or aggravated misdemeanors. These are considered “automatic revocations.”

# Parole Revocation Statistics

Parole Revocation Statistics	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Parole Revocation Hearings	3,140	2,919	2,760
Parole Revoked to Prison	538	547	552
Automatic Revocations	322	339	319
Parole Revoked to Work Release	520	456	344
Paroles Revoked*	1,277	1,199	1,091
<b>Total Paroles Revoked</b>	<b>1,599</b>	<b>1,538</b>	<b>1,410</b>

\*Does not include automatic revocations

# Victim Services

The Board staff includes a victim services liaison whose primary responsibility is to assist victims who want to exercise their rights established by Chapter 915, the Iowa Victims Rights Act, including:

- Right to notification not less than 20 days before the Board conducts an interview with an offender
- Opportunity to submit their opinion concerning release in writing prior to the interview, or may appear personally or by counsel at the interview to express an opinion
- Right to notification of the Board's decision regarding release, regardless if the victim appears at the interview or expresses an opinion regarding release
- Assistance with the parole process, including recommendations to additional services when necessary

At the end of FY 2023, a total of 7,813 victims were registered with the Board of Parole.

The Board mailed a total of 6,403 victim notifications during FY 2023.

# Budget

Fiscal Year	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025 Requested
Appropriation	\$1,285,739	\$1,308,724	\$1,517,894	\$1,517,894

Fiscal Year	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Technology Projects			20,000	

# Budget Line Items – FY 2024

Salaries & Benefits	\$1,311,162
Travel	\$35,700
Supplies	\$15,402
Services	\$176,900
Equipment	\$53,538
Total	\$1,592,702

# Technology Fund Use

- Added commutations to the ICON system for digital access and accountability.
- Updated parole conditions and the technology associated.
- Created Core Offender Information and Public Information reports.
- Changed to Zoom for interview system from Google Meet.
- Updated letterhead in ICON generated letters.
- Improving Release Candidate Dashboard in partnership with DOC.

# Any Questions?