

I strongly support a rule recognizing that imprisoned people remain residents of their home community, not the community where the prison is located for the following four reasons:

1. They have no relationship to the community where the prison is located, and few plan to remain there after their incarceration ends.
2. Generally, residence is deemed proper in the state where people intend a permanent residence, not where they happen to be. That principle applies even more strongly here.
3. The effect of using the prison as the residence is racially discriminatory -- giving disproportionately more voting power to rural white communities where prisons are located rather than black urban communities.
4. In those instances in which voting rights are not lost during imprisonment, would the local communities really want prisoners voting for school board, etc., in their community? No, because the site of the prison is not their community.

Prisoners are not "residents" of the prison's locality, and should not be counted as such.

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