

I encourage you to eliminate the rule that counts incarcerated people as residents of the community where the prison is located, rather than their home community. This "prison gerrymandering" tends to enhance the political power of rural white communities at the expense of urban communities of color, and is out of touch with reality -- most prisoners do not intend permanent residence in the place where the prison is located, and probably would not be overly welcome there.

If prisoners were allowed to vote, would their "local" community really want them helping decide who is on their school board? Since prisoners generally cannot vote, this is a contemporary equivalent of the Constitution's original "three-fifths" rule, counting enslaved blacks as equivalent to three-fifths of white people for purposes of allocating voting power.

Sara Zimmerman