

Vermont Parole Board

Parole is established in Title 28, Chapter 7 of the Vermont Statutes.

Vermont Statute 28 V.S.A. § 402(1) defines parole as:

“(1) Parole means the release of an inmate to the community by the Parole Board before the end of the inmate’s sentence subject to conditions imposed by the Board and subject to the supervision and control of the Commissioner. If a court or other authority files a warrant or detainer against an inmate, the Board may release him or her on parole to answer the warrant and serve any subsequent sentences.”

Parole Board Mission Statement

The Vermont Parole Board as an independent entity that considers eligible offenders for parole, rendering just decisions by balancing victim needs, the risk to public safety, while promoting offender accountability and success.

Composition of the Parole Board

The Parole Board is comprised of 7 board members and 3 full time office staff.

Hearings are held with a quorum of 3 board members. All board members, including alternates, are distributed between the hearings.

Board Members	Office Staff
Dean George, Chair	Mary Jane Ainsworth, Director
Patricia Boucher, Vice Chair	Colby Leno, Administrative Staff
Wayne Denger	Carla Vecchione, Administrative Staff
Tom Giffin	
Katie Aiken	
Samantha Drake, Alternate	
Angela Chicoine, Alternate	

Board Member Qualifications

Vermont Statute 28 V.S.A. § 451(a) states,

“As far as practicable, the Governor shall appoint as members persons who have knowledge of and experience in correctional treatment, crime prevention, or human relations, and shall give consideration, as far as practicable, to geographic representation of the State.”

Monthly Hearings

The Parole Board conducts the following types of hearings and reviews virtually using Microsoft Teams at 19 DOC sites each month:

- Parole Hearings
- Presumptive Parole Administrative Reviews
- Annual Record Reviews
- Parole Violation
- Reprimand
- Early Termination of Parole
- Condition Modification
- Parole Rescission
- SCS Hearings (Violations, Minimum, Early Termination)
- Probable Cause/Bail Hearings.

Board Member Commitment & Scheduling

The typical Parole Board monthly schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for the first 3 weeks of the month are hearing days comprised of a quorum of 3 board members.
- Each Friday – One board member, generally the Chair or Vice Chair conducts Preliminary Violation Hearings.
- An overflow hearing day (quorum of 3 board members) and a staff meeting day (all board members) are scheduled for the last week of the month.

Each board member is scheduled for 3 to 4 hearings days per month based on their availability. The Chair and Vice Chair are divided between the 10 hearing days, so at least 1 of them is assigned to chair the hearings.

Board Member Compensation

- Per 28 V.S.A. § 451(c), The Chair of the Parole Board is to be compensated \$20,500 annually. This amount was effective starting the first pay period of fiscal year 2006. This is in lieu of any per diem otherwise authorized by law.
- The remaining board members receive a per diem amount of \$100 per working day. Board member working days are generally the days that they are assigned to a hearing, a day of preparation prior to the hearing day, training day as assigned, and/or a staff meeting day.
- All board members receive travel expenses as applicable to their duties.

Parole Board Office Composition

The Parole Board Office is comprised of three staff members.

- A Parole Board Director as outlined in 28 V.S.A. § 455.
 - Serves a 4-year term.
 - Exempt from classified state service.
 - Fulltime salary position.
- 2 fulltime classified Parole Board Technician positions. These individuals complete the majority of the administrative functions of the Parole Board.

Board Member Training

Opportunities for Training

- Initial SDMF Training by the Board Director and continuous training at Board staff meetings.
- Annual Association of Parole Authorities International Conference for a limited number of Board Members and Parole Board Director.
- Technical Assistance through outside entities when offered.
- National Institute of Corrections
 - New Board Member Training
 - Parole Board Chair Training
 - Structured Decision-Making Framework Community of Practice
- Availability of outside entities to provide additional training to the board.

Questions?