

**REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE**  
**Pursuant to P.A. 207 of 2018**  
**Article V, Section 422**  
**Parole Board Decisions Report – October 2019**

**Section 422:** On a quarterly basis, the department shall issue a report to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on corrections, the senate and house fiscal agencies, the legislative corrections ombudsman, and the state budget office, for the previous 4 quarters detailing the outcomes of prisoners who have been reviewed for parole. The report shall include all of the following:

- a) How many prisoners in each quarter were reviewed.
- b) How many prisoners were granted parole.
- c) How many prisoners were denied parole.
- d) How many parole decisions were deferred.
- e) The distribution of the total number of prisoners reviewed during that quarter grouped by whether the prisoners had been interviewed for the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, or more than sixth time.
- f) The number of paroles granted, denied, or deferred for each of the parole guideline scores of low, average, and high.
- g) The reason for denying or deferring parole.

The Michigan Parole Board is the only paroling authority for felony offenders committed to the jurisdiction of the Michigan Department of Corrections. That Parole Board gains jurisdiction of a case when a prisoner serving a non-life sentence has served his or her minimum sentence, less any good time or disciplinary credits the prisoner may have earned.

The Parole Board is divided into three member panels. The decision whether to grant or deny parole is determined by majority vote of a Parole Board panel. Cases involving a life sentence must be decided by a majority vote of the full Parole Board. If an offender is denied parole, a date is selected for the next Parole Board review.

The data in this report will follow its own respective date ranges to allow for the settling of data into the system and to ensure accurate analysis of the data. Below is how we have chosen to divide each report...

- January report: September – November
- April report: December – February
- July report: March – May
- October report: June – August

Table 1 breaks down the total number of hearings that have been granted parole, denied parole and deferred. It also gives the distribution of the number of hearings grouped by whether the prisoners had been interviewed for the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth or more than sixth time.

**Table 1 – Hearing Number by Decision Type**

		Hearing							Total
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	More Than 6th	
Sept '18 - Nov '18	Grant	1,329	358	135	48	36	14	22	1,942
	Deny	362	208	101	53	44	19	39	826
	Defer	837	77	41	33	18	5	16	1,027
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,528</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>3,795</b>
Dec '18 - Feb '19	Grant	1,406	375	115	66	27	10	24	2,023
	Deny	343	195	93	58	31	16	45	781
	Defer	921	78	39	16	15	8	19	1,096
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,670</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>3,900</b>
Mar '19 - May '19	Grant	1,708	522	188	59	37	23	46	2,583
	Deny	369	257	139	87	50	33	60	995
	Defer	1,224	95	58	37	32	14	28	1,488
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,301</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>5,066</b>
Jun '19 - Aug '19	Grant	1,478	439	145	65	35	18	28	2,208
	Deny	311	269	154	73	40	26	47	920
	Defer	1,259	140	64	26	26	7	23	1,545
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,048</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>4,673</b>
Total	Grant	5,921	1,694	583	238	135	65	120	8,756
	Deny	1,385	929	487	271	165	94	191	3,522
	Defer	4,241	390	202	112	91	34	86	5,156
	<b>Total</b>	<b>11,547</b>	<b>3,013</b>	<b>1,272</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>17,434</b>

The parole guidelines score is a numerical scoring system designed to assist in applying objective criteria to any decision made by the Parole Board. Information used in the calculation of the parole guideline score includes the prisoner's current offense, the prior criminal record, institutional conduct and program performance, age, mental health status and statistical risk.

Table 2 shows the number of paroles granted, denied or deferred for each of the parole guideline scores of low, middle and high.

**Table 2 – Number of Paroles Granted, Denied or Deferred by Parole Guideline Description**

		Parole Guideline (PG) Description			Total
		Low	Average	High	
Sept '18 - Nov '18	Grant	31	674	1,105	1,810
	Deny	113	416	292	821
	Defer	25	508	474	1,007
	<b>Total</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>1,598</b>	<b>1,871</b>	<b>3,638</b>
Dec '18 - Feb '19	Grant	27	777	1,114	1,918
	Deny	177	361	242	780
	Defer	33	516	521	1,070
	<b>Total</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>1,654</b>	<b>1,877</b>	<b>3,768</b>
Mar '19 - May '19	Grant	62	1,052	1,320	2,434
	Deny	213	491	290	994
	Defer	60	715	692	1,467
	<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>2,258</b>	<b>2,302</b>	<b>4,895</b>
Jun '19 - Aug '19	Grant	47	847	1,176	2,070
	Deny	172	515	231	918
	Defer	56	769	698	1,523
	<b>Total</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>2,131</b>	<b>2,105</b>	<b>4,511</b>
Total	Grant	167	3,350	4,715	8,232
	Deny	675	1,783	1,055	3,513
	Defer	174	2,508	2,385	5,067
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,016</b>	<b>7,641</b>	<b>8,155</b>	<b>16,812</b>
SAI Grants					448
No Parole Guideline Score					174
<b>Total</b>					<b>17,434</b>

Table 3 shows the typical reasons for denying or deferring parole.

**Table 3 – Decision Type by Reason**

Reasons for Denying or Deferring	Decision Type				Total	%
	Deny	%	Defer	%		
Current Therapy or Psychological Report	1	0.03%	4,093	79.85%	4,094	47.34%
Further Demonstration	7	0.20%	0	0.00%	7	0.08%
Further Discussion	0	0.00%	498	9.72%	498	5.76%
Investigation	0	0.00%	505	9.85%	505	5.84%
Regular Parole	1	0.03%	0	0.00%	1	0.01%
Risk to Community	3,513	99.74%	0	0.00%	3,513	40.62%
Satisfactory Placement	0	0.00%	30	0.59%	30	0.35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,522</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>5,126</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>8,648</b>	<b>100.00%</b>