

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 119 of 2023
Article 2, Section 504
Parole Board Decisions Report – 2nd Qtr.

***Section 506:** The department shall issue quarterly reports for the previous 4 quarters detailing 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. The 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	
Mar '23 - May '23	Grant	1,051	245	99	38	21	7	14	1,475
	Deny	332	243	99	55	41	32	62	864
	Defer	926	71	37	22	9	10	9	1,084
	Total	2,309	559	235	115	71	49	85	3,423
Jun '23 - Aug '23	Grant	1,152	319	107	44	17	7	21	1,667
	Deny	272	178	100	50	36	27	49	712
	Defer	897	66	27	12	12	6	14	1,034
	Total	2,321	563	234	106	65	40	84	3,413
Sep '23 - Nov '23	Grant	1,128	280	86	35	20	17	12	1,578
	Deny	215	145	77	32	36	31	60	596
	Defer	768	71	38	12	11	12	15	927
	Total	2,111	496	201	79	67	60	87	3,101
Dec '23 - Feb '24	Grant	1,053	268	100	24	14	9	16	1,484
	Deny	209	159	81	43	29	22	51	594
	Defer	770	72	35	16	17	8	13	931
	Total	2,032	499	216	83	60	39	80	3,009
Total	Grant	4,384	1,112	392	141	72	40	63	6,204
	Deny	1,028	725	357	180	142	112	222	2,766
	Defer	3,361	280	137	62	49	36	51	3,976
	Total	8,773	2,117	886	383	263	188	336	12,946

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	
Mar '23 - May '23	Grant	24	658	716	1,398
	Deny	185	531	148	864
	Defer	32	617	415	1,064
	Total	241	1,806	1,279	3,326
Jun '23 - Aug '23	Grant	27	717	846	1,590
	Deny	157	420	134	711
	Defer	37	604	381	1,022
	Total	221	1,741	1,361	3,323
Sep '23 - Nov '23	Grant	28	660	779	1,467
	Deny	122	363	108	593
	Defer	53	527	320	900
	Total	203	1,550	1,207	2,960
Dec '23 - Feb '24	Grant	33	656	697	1,386
	Deny	154	322	115	591
	Defer	46	519	337	902
	Total	233	1,497	1,149	2,879
Total	Grant	112	2,691	3,038	5,841
	Deny	618	1,636	505	2,759
	Defer	168	2,267	1,453	3,888
	Total	898	6,594	4,996	12,488
SAI Grants					326
No Parole Guideline Score					132
Total					12,946

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	0	0.00%	2,617	65.82%	2,617	38.82%
Further Discussion	0	0.00%	633	15.92%	633	9.39%
Investigation	0	0.00%	682	17.15%	682	10.12%
Risk to Community	2,766	100.00%	0	0.00%	2,766	41.03%
Satisfactory Placement	0	0.00%	44	1.11%	44	0.65%
Total	2,766	100.00%	3,976	100.00%	6,742	100.00%