

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 119 of 2023
Article 2, Section 504
Parole Board Decisions Report – 3rd Quarter

***Section 504:** 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	
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	769	71	38	12	11	12	15	928
	Total	2,112	496	201	79	67	60	87	3,102
Dec '23 - Feb '24	Grant	1,055	269	101	24	14	10	16	1,489
	Deny	209	159	81	43	29	22	51	594
	Defer	770	72	35	16	17	8	13	931
	Total	2,034	500	217	83	60	40	80	3,014
Mar '24 - May '24	Grant	1,045	290	95	35	13	13	12	1,503
	Deny	304	235	107	62	29	38	62	837
	Defer	911	82	54	24	10	5	11	1,097
	Total	2,260	607	256	121	52	56	85	3,437
Total	Grant	4,380	1,158	389	138	64	47	61	6,237
	Deny	1,000	717	365	187	130	118	222	2,739
	Defer	3,347	291	154	64	50	31	53	3,990
	Total	8,727	2,166	908	389	244	196	336	12,966

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	
Jun '23 - Aug '23	Grant	27	717	846	1,590
	Deny	157	419	134	710
	Defer	37	603	382	1,022
	Total	221	1,739	1,362	3,322
Sep '23 - Nov '23	Grant	28	659	779	1,466
	Deny	122	358	108	588
	Defer	53	529	324	906
	Total	203	1,546	1,211	2,960
Dec '23 - Feb '24	Grant	33	657	700	1,390
	Deny	155	321	114	590
	Defer	46	519	335	900
	Total	234	1,497	1,149	2,880
Mar '24 - May '24	Grant	31	603	766	1,400
	Deny	192	481	161	834
	Defer	64	663	342	1,069
	Total	287	1,747	1,269	3,303
Total	Grant	119	2,636	3,091	5,846
	Deny	626	1,579	517	2,722
	Defer	200	2,314	1,383	3,897
	Total	945	6,529	4,991	12,465
SAI Grants					347
No Parole Guideline Score					154
Total					12,966

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%	2,651	66.44%	2,651	39.40%
Further Discussion	0	0.00%	591	14.81%	591	8.78%
Investigation	0	0.00%	701	17.57%	701	10.42%
Risk to Community	2,739	100.00%	0	0.00%	2,739	40.70%
Satisfactory Placement	0	0.00%	47	1.18%	47	0.70%
Total	2,739	100.00%	3,990	100.00%	6,729	100.00%