

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 119 of 2023
Article 2, Section 504
Parole Board Decisions Report – 4th 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. 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	
Sep '23 - Nov '23	Grant	1,131	281	86	35	20	17	12	1,582
	Deny	236	163	81	35	40	34	67	656
	Defer	787	78	41	13	12	12	16	959
	Total	2,154	522	208	83	72	63	95	3,197
Dec '23 - Feb '24	Grant	1,055	273	102	24	14	10	16	1,494
	Deny	217	167	88	47	30	23	52	624
	Defer	780	76	35	16	18	8	13	946
	Total	2,052	516	225	87	62	41	81	3,064
Mar '24 - May '24	Grant	1,050	296	99	36	13	14	12	1,520
	Deny	316	238	112	63	30	39	62	860
	Defer	915	82	54	24	10	5	11	1,101
	Total	2,281	616	265	123	53	58	85	3,481
Jun '24 - Aug '24	Grant	1,268	339	120	51	15	9	20	1,822
	Deny	320	216	99	74	32	27	77	845
	Defer	902	84	46	15	9	6	20	1,082
	Total	2,490	639	265	140	56	42	117	3,749
Total	Grant	4,504	1,189	407	146	62	50	60	6,418
	Deny	1,089	784	380	219	132	123	258	2,985
	Defer	3,384	320	176	68	49	31	60	4,088
	Total	8,977	2,293	963	433	243	204	378	13,491

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	
Sep '23 - Nov '23	Grant	22	672	781	1,475
	Deny	161	382	113	656
	Defer	54	565	323	942
	Total	237	1,619	1,217	3,073
Dec '23 - Feb '24	Grant	23	667	705	1,395
	Deny	184	339	100	623
	Defer	40	546	342	928
	Total	247	1,552	1,147	2,946
Mar '24 - May '24	Grant	24	616	778	1,418
	Deny	221	481	158	860
	Defer	39	693	353	1,085
	Total	284	1,790	1,289	3,363
Jun '24 - Aug '24	Grant	27	831	876	1,734
	Deny	221	492	131	844
	Defer	49	647	371	1,067
	Total	297	1,970	1,378	3,645
Total	Grant	96	2,786	3,140	6,022
	Deny	787	1,694	502	2,983
	Defer	182	2,451	1,389	4,022
	Total	1,065	6,931	5,031	13,027
SAI Grants					361
No Parole Guideline Score					103
Total					13,491

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%	2,769	67.73%	2,769	39.15%
Further Discussion	0	0.00%	554	13.55%	554	7.83%
Investigation	0	0.00%	720	17.61%	720	10.18%
Risk to Community	2,985	100.00%	0	0.00%	2,985	42.20%
Satisfactory Placement	0	0.00%	45	1.10%	45	0.64%
Total	2,985	100.00%	4,088	100.00%	7,073	100.00%