

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 121 of 2024
Article 2, Section 504
Parole Board Decisions Report – 1st Qtr.

***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	
Dec '23 - Feb '24	Grant	1,058	270	102	24	14	10	16	1,494
	Deny	229	185	92	49	32	23	57	667
	Defer	799	77	35	17	19	8	14	969
	Total	2,086	532	229	90	65	41	87	3,130
Mar '24 - May '24	Grant	1,051	297	100	36	13	14	12	1,523
	Deny	326	248	115	65	31	44	63	892
	Defer	922	82	55	24	10	5	11	1,109
	Total	2,299	627	270	125	54	63	86	3,524
Jun '24 - Aug '24	Grant	1,270	341	123	52	15	9	20	1,830
	Deny	323	219	99	74	32	27	78	852
	Defer	907	84	46	15	9	6	21	1,088
	Total	2,500	644	268	141	56	42	119	3,770
Sep '24 - Nov '24	Grant	1,198	387	122	53	20	11	14	1,805
	Deny	329	240	129	78	43	37	93	949
	Defer	870	80	57	31	14	11	21	1,084
	Total	2,397	707	308	162	77	59	128	3,838
Total	Grant	4,577	1,295	447	165	62	44	62	6,652
	Deny	1,207	892	435	266	138	131	291	3,360
	Defer	3,498	323	193	87	52	30	67	4,250
	Total	9,282	2,510	1,075	518	252	205	420	14,262

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	
Dec '23 - Feb '24	Grant	23	666	706	1,395
	Deny	193	369	104	666
	Defer	47	561	347	955
	Total	263	1,596	1,157	3,016
Mar '24 - May '24	Grant	25	617	779	1,421
	Deny	230	500	162	892
	Defer	43	700	359	1,102
	Total	298	1,817	1,300	3,415
Jun '24 - Aug '24	Grant	29	832	884	1,745
	Deny	222	497	132	851
	Defer	53	649	378	1,080
	Total	304	1,978	1,394	3,676
Sep '24 - Nov '24	Grant	47	855	868	1,770
	Deny	240	542	166	948
	Defer	84	655	320	1,059
	Total	371	2,052	1,354	3,777
Total	Grant	124	2,970	3,237	6,331
	Deny	885	1,908	564	3,357
	Defer	227	2,565	1,404	4,196
	Total	1,236	7,443	5,205	13,884
SAI Grants					286
No Parole Guideline Score					92
Total					14,262

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%	2,887	67.93%	2,887	37.94%
Further Discussion	0	0.00%	556	13.08%	556	7.31%
Investigation	0	0.00%	763	17.95%	763	10.03%
Regular Parole	1	0.03%	0	0.00%	1	0.01%
Risk to Community	3,356	99.91%	0	0.00%	3,356	44.11%
Satisfactory Placement	2	0.06%	44	1.04%	46	0.60%
Total	3,359	100.00%	4,250	100.00%	7,609	100.00%