



## News Release

**Harry Battson**

Director of Public Information  
Board of Pardons and Paroles

512-406-5870

512-221-9049 Cell

August 13, 2012

12-02

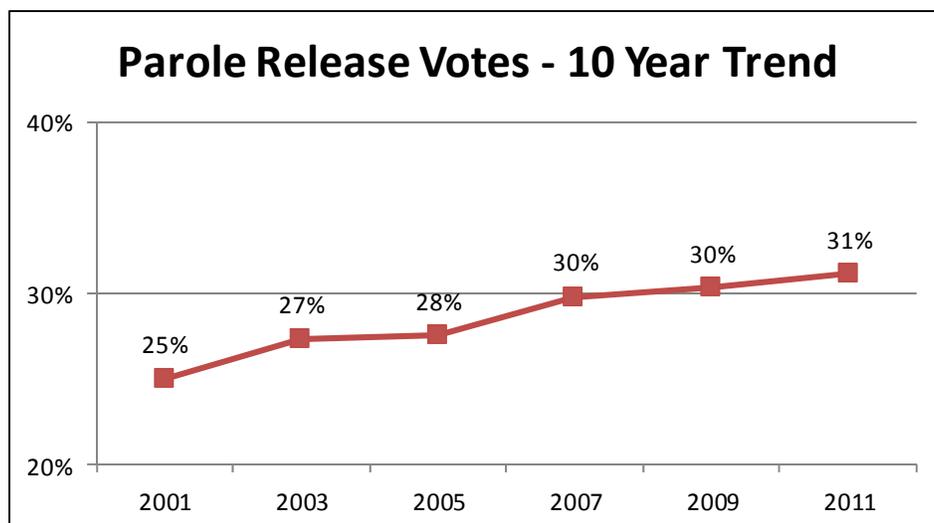
# Parole granted more often, revoked less

AUSTIN – The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles has released its statistical information for the past fiscal year, showing a continuing trend of granting parole to more offenders and revoking parole less often.

The Board approved parole for 24,342 offenders, or 31 percent of the 78,391 parole cases reviewed from Sept. 1, 2010 through Aug. 31, 2011, according to its Annual Statistical Report. The 31 percent is consistent with the previous year but reflects a six percent increase over the past decade (FY 2001 - 25 percent).

“We are pleased with the continuing increase in granting parole,” said Board Chair Rissie Owens. “The use of our Parole Guidelines to assess the likelihood of a successful parole outcome has been cited as a national model for its positive impact on returning more offenders to productive lives.”

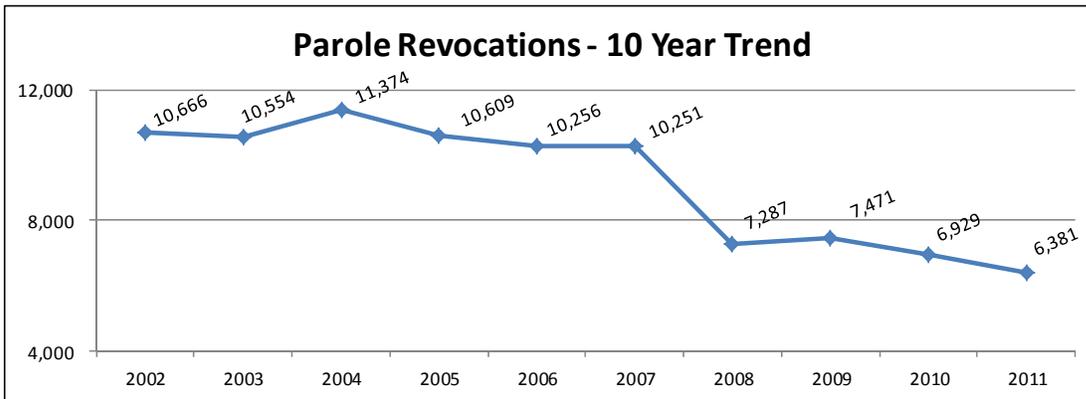
Owens cited the Board’s aggressive use of rehabilitation programs prior to releasing offenders. She also recognized the work of State Sen. John Whitmire, State Rep. Jerry Madden and other legislative leaders in passing laws to improve parole effectiveness and to reduce the number of offenders returning to prison.



The number of offenders returning to prison for violating parole conditions declined again. The Board revoked the parole of 6,381 offenders, a drop of eight percent from last year and 44 percent from the FY 2004 peak of 11,374.

“Our graduated sanctions approach holds offenders accountable to the rules of supervision while allowing us to make decisions that better reflect the seriousness of the parole violation,” Owens said.

Graduated sanctions include placing offenders in an Intermediate Sanction Facility or Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facility, or modifying the conditions of parole supervision.



“While the Board’s primary concern is public safety, the rehabilitation of offenders both contributes to society and reduces the expense for taxpayers,” Owens noted. In 2010, the average cost nationally for one person to spend one month in prison was nearly \$2,600, according to a Pew Research Center report.

In FY 2011, the Board also approved 10,155 offenders (48 percent of the 20,886 cases) for discretionary mandatory supervision. In these cases, an offender automatically receives parole unless the Board finds that the offender’s actual time served and good conduct time credit do not reflect a potential for rehabilitation and the offender’s release would endanger the public.

The complete annual statistical report may be found on the Board web site, <http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/bpp/publications/publications.html>.

The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles, established by the Texas Constitution, determines which offenders are to be released on parole, any special conditions for that parole and whether to revoke parole. The Board also recommends clemency matters to the Governor.

# # #