

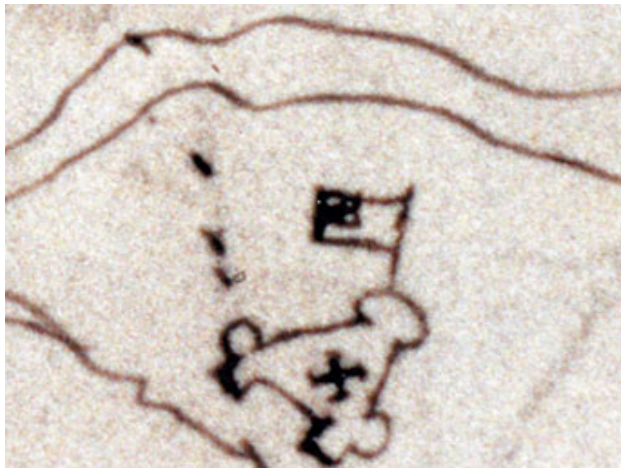
# Voting Rights Timeline

1605 - - 1971 -

# COLONIAL ERA

1605 -  
COLONIAL ERA

Resources:



## 1607 - English Colony Established

First permanent English colony in North America founded at Jamestown, Va.

Resources:



## 1676 - Right to Vote Reserved for Property Owners

The Bacon Rebellion occurred in 1676 when white men, indentured servants and some Africans burned the Virginia colonial capital to force the government to crack down on Native Americans. As a result, property requirements for voting were restored in Virginia and permanent slavery for Africans was established.

Resources:



## 1676 - Virginia Further Restricts Rights of Free Blacks and Slaves

Following the Bacon Rebellion, Virginia became the first state to establish Black Codes, which did away with indentured servitude and replaced it with permanent slavery for Africans. By the early 1700s each colony had enacted laws that not only regulated conditions for black slaves but also restricted the rights of free blacks. Black slaves and free blacks alike could not vote, testify in court against a white person, or marry a white person. Slaves were not allowed to carry arms or leave their homes without written permission.

### Resources:

Colonial Authority ([http://www.understandingrace.org/history/gov/colonial\\_authority.html](http://www.understandingrace.org/history/gov/colonial_authority.html))

1718 -  
Maryland Bars Catholics from Voting

A L A W  
O F  
M A R Y L A  
Concerning  
R E L I G I O N

in a well-governed and Christian Commonwealth, Matters concerning Religion  
taken into serious consideration, and endeavoured to be settled. Be it therefore Or  
't S Lord Baron of *Baltimore*, absolute Lord and Proprietary of this Province, wit  
le of this General Assembly, That whatsoever person or persons within this Provin  
forth blaspheme G O D, that is curse him; or shall deny our Saviour J E S U S C  
rinity, the Father, Son, & Holy Ghost; or the Godhead of any of the said Three Perf  
proachful speeches, words, or language, concerning the Holy Trinity, or any of  
infringement or forfeiture of all his or her Lands and Goods to the Lord Proprietary ar

After nearly 70 years of religious tolerance called for in the Maryland Toleration Act, the colonial government barred Catholics from voting.

Resources:



## 1732 - Colonies Allow Only Taxpayers and Property Owners to Vote

Each of the 13 colonies allowed only landowners or men who owned a substantial amount of personal property or paid taxes to vote.

Resources:



## 1737 - New York Bars Jews from Voting

The General Assembly of New York barred Jews from voting, one of four colonies to do so. Five colonies at the time barred Catholics from voting.

Resources:





## 1756 - First Woman Legally Votes in Colonies

Lydia Taft became the first woman to legally vote in the American Colonies, voting in a town meeting in Uxbridge, Mass., following the untimely death of her husband. The vote was on whether the town should support the French and Indian War effort.

Resources:

# REVOLUTIONARY WAR ERA

1757 -  
REVOLUTIONARY WAR ERA

Resources:

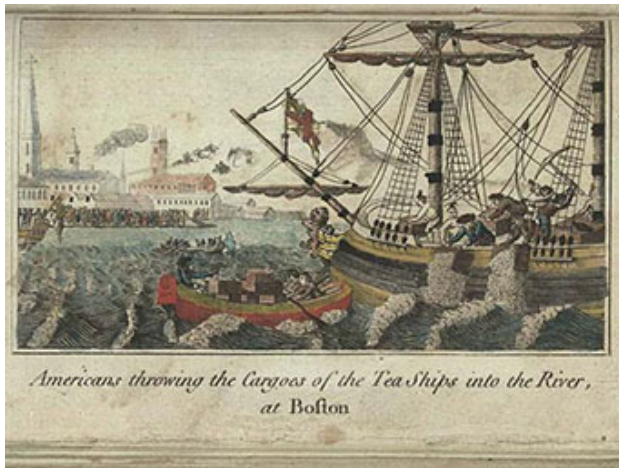


## 1770 - Slave who could not Vote is First Colonist to Die for American Independence

Crispus Attucks, a slave without the right to vote, became the first colonial soldier to die for American independence when he was killed by the British in the Boston Massacre.

Resources:

[Timeline \(http://www.pbs.org/wnet/aaworld/timeline/early\\_02.html\)](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/aaworld/timeline/early_02.html)



## 1773 - Boston Tea Party Protests Lack of Representation in Parliament

Tax-paying Massachusetts colonists protested their lack of representation in British Parliament by destroying a shipment of tea in Boston Harbor. It was one of the many protests that eventually led to independence and war with England.

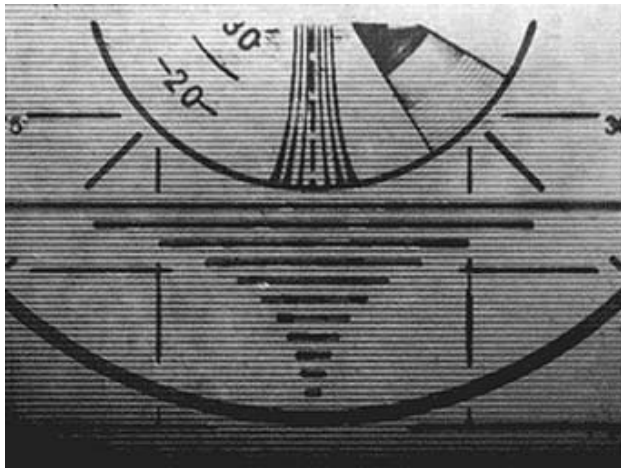
Resources:



## 1776 - Catholics, Jews, Quakers Barred from Voting

Although a Catholic signed the Declaration of Independence, Catholics, Jews, Quakers and others are barred from voting, though other white men with property could vote.

Resources:



## 1776 - Some States Allow Free Blacks to Vote

Free blacks could vote in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Connecticut.

Resources:



## 1776 - Abigail Adams Entreats Husband to Remember the Ladies

During the second Continental Congress, Abigail Adams entreated her husband, John Adams, to "remember the ladies" in the new code of laws he was writing.

### Resources:

[A History of American Suffragist Movement \(http://www.suffragist.com/timeline.htm\)](http://www.suffragist.com/timeline.htm)



## 1776 - Voter Eligibility Depends on Paying Taxes

1776-1778: Many states replaced property requirements with tax-paying requirements for voting eligibility. Some states allowed anyone who had served in the military to vote.

### Resources:

[The Right To Vote \(http://books.google.com/books?id=uRk-eQBduu8C&pg=PA3&source=gbs\\_toc\\_r&cad=4#v=onepage&q&f=false\)](http://books.google.com/books?id=uRk-eQBduu8C&pg=PA3&source=gbs_toc_r&cad=4#v=onepage&q&f=false)

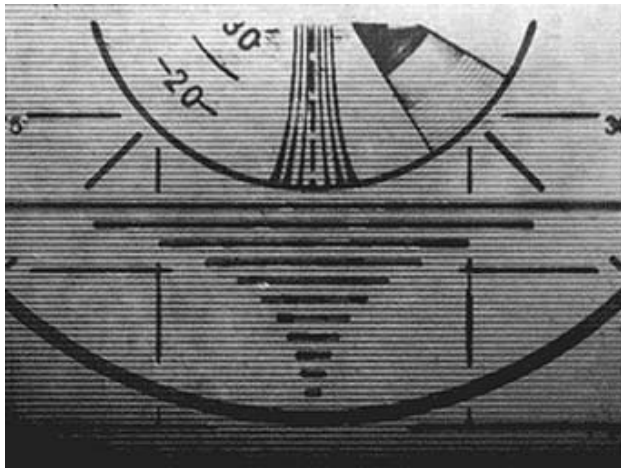




## 1777 - Vermont Grants Universal Male Suffrage

Vermont ratified its Constitution, which prohibited slavery and indentured servitude and provided universal male suffrage with no property requirements

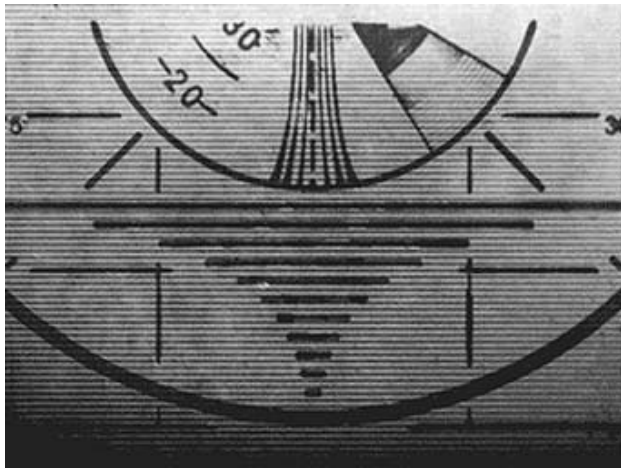
Resources:



## 1777 - Women Lose Right to Vote in New York

Women with property whose husbands had died were allowed by many New York counties to vote until the state moved to ban the practice.

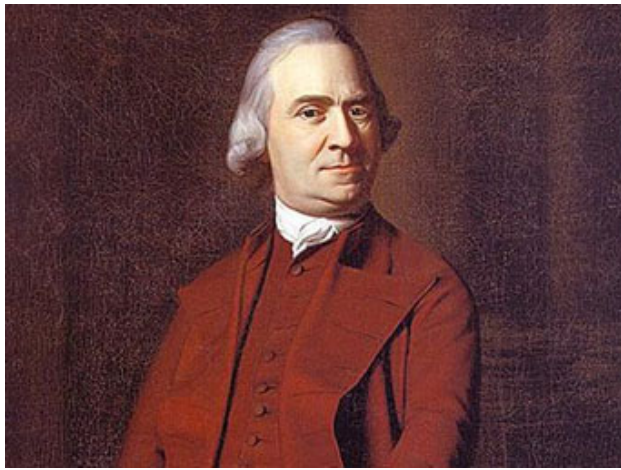
Resources:



## 1780 - Massachusetts Moves to Stop Women from Voting

The state stepped in to preclude women with property or money from voting.

Resources:



## 1781 - Samuel Adams Describes Voting as a Solemn Trust

Samuel Adams wrote: "Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote that he is not making a present or a compliment to please an individual or at least that he ought not so to do but that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country."

### Resources:

Samuel Adams (<http://ringthebellsoffreedom.com/Quotes/sadamscontent.htm>)



## 1783 - Slaves Counted as Three-Fifths in North-South Compromise

The most controversial of all compromises between the North and South, proposed in 1783, was the Three-Fifths Compromise, an agreement to count three-fifths of a state's slaves in apportioning representatives, presidential electors and direct taxes. Although it was at a rate less than whites, African-American slaves who were not allowed to vote were being factored into the equation for determining the number of representatives.

Resources:



## 1784 - Female Voting Further Restricted in New Hampshire

The state moved to ensure that no women - not even those with property - were allowed to vote.

Resources:



## 1787 - New Jersey Sole State Still Allowing Some Women to Vote

By 1787, women in all states except New Jersey had lost the right to vote. Since the birth of the nation, women in New Jersey could vote as long as they had at least 50 British pounds in cash or property.

### Resources:

The Right To Vote ([http://books.google.com/books?id=uRk-eQBduu8C&pg=PA3&source=gbs\\_toc\\_r&cad=4#v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=uRk-eQBduu8C&pg=PA3&source=gbs_toc_r&cad=4#v=onepage&q&f=false))



## 1788 - More Men Living on Frontier Vote than City Counterparts

In frontier areas, 70 percent to 80 percent of white men were able to vote; in the cities, that number dropped to less than 50 percent.

Resources:





## 1788 - Federal Government Leaves Voting Decisions to States

The federal government left it up to states to determine voting eligibility.

Resources:

## TERRITORIAL GROWTH

### COLONIAL PERIOD: 1775

- Original Thirteen Colonies
- Other British territories

### UNITED STATES: 1790–1920

- States
- State claims
- Special status areas
- Territories
- Unorganized territories
- Claimed areas
- Foreign areas

Dates of territorial acquisitions  
 Dates of initial territorial organization  
 Dates of latest change within given time period  
 Dates of admission to the Union

Map scale 1:14,000,000  
 d by H. George Stull, Hammond Incorporated, 1967;  
 U.S. Geological Survey, 1970



## Property Requirement for Voting Disappears

None of the new states being admitted to the Union required people to own property in order to vote.

Resources:

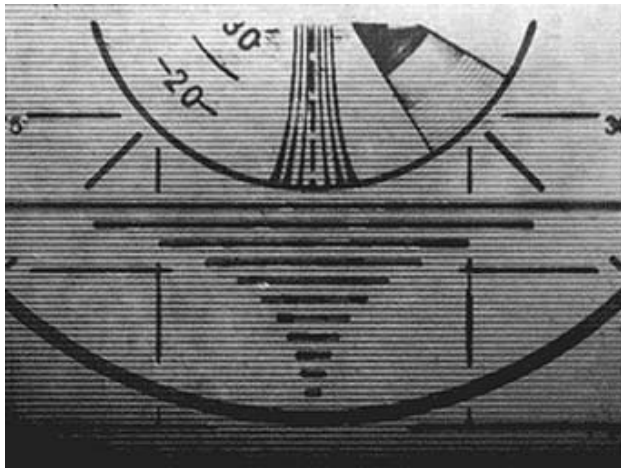


## 1790 - Free Blacks Allowed to Vote in Six States

By this time, six states (Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Vermont) permitted free African-Americans to vote.

Resources:

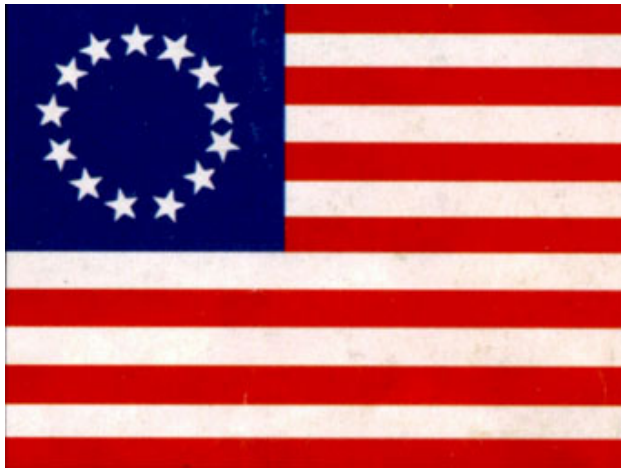
[Winning the Vote \(http://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/government-and-civics/essays/winning-vote-history-voting-rights\)](http://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/government-and-civics/essays/winning-vote-history-voting-rights)



## 1790 - First U.S. Naturalization Act Passes

The first U.S. Naturalization Act only permitted free white persons to become American citizens. Asians and other ethnic groups were excluded, and therefore could not vote.

Resources:



## 1790 - Sephardic Jews Seek Political Equality

While denied the vote or ability to hold office in some areas, Sephardic Jews became active in community affairs in the 1790s, after achieving political equality in the five states where they were most numerous.

### Resources:

[Ethnicity, Race, and American Foreign Policy \(p.52\) \(http://books.google.com/books?id=XOlcL8kgrZgC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs\\_atb#v=onepage&q&f=false\)](http://books.google.com/books?id=XOlcL8kgrZgC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_atb#v=onepage&q&f=false)



## 1792 - Delaware Drops Property Tax Requirement

Delaware eliminated its property requirement for voting.

Resources:

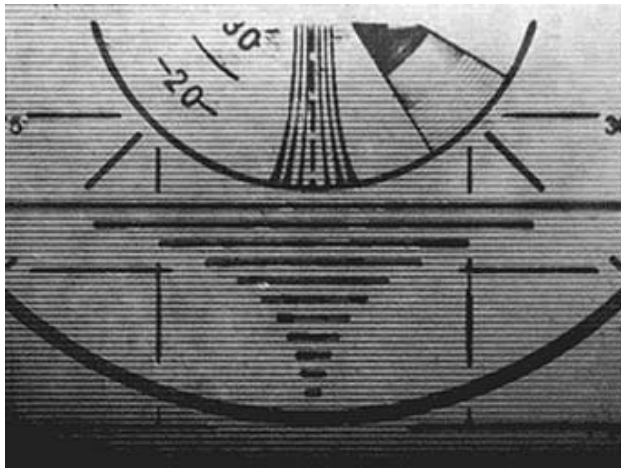


## 1792 - White Male Suffrage Expands

The constitutions of Connecticut, Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia, excluded blacks from voting, but expanded white male suffrage.

Resources:

Voting Rights in America ([http://theautry.org/explore/exhibits/suffrage/suff\\_time.html](http://theautry.org/explore/exhibits/suffrage/suff_time.html))

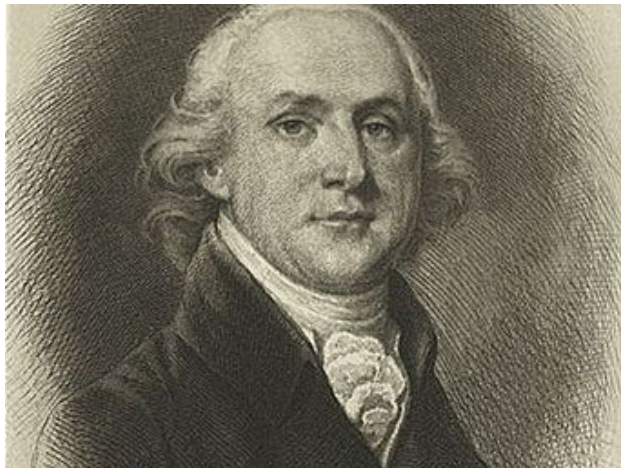


## 1800 - Only Citizens Can Vote in New States

Almost all the states that joined the union between 1800 and 1840 conferred the right to vote exclusively to citizens.

Resources:





## 1802 - Maryland Drops Property Requirement

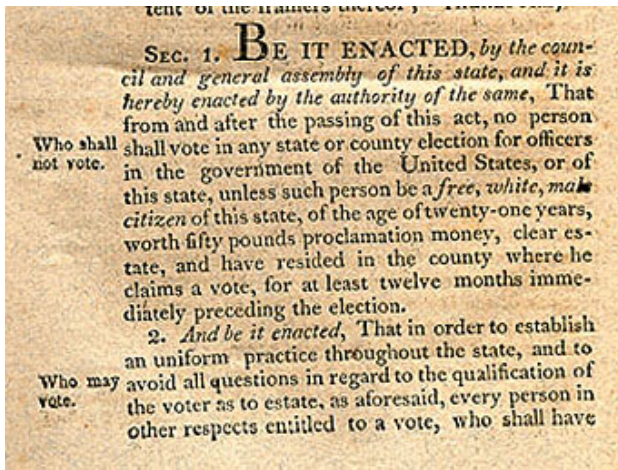
Maryland eliminated its property requirement for voting.

Resources:



1805 -  
ANTEBELLUM

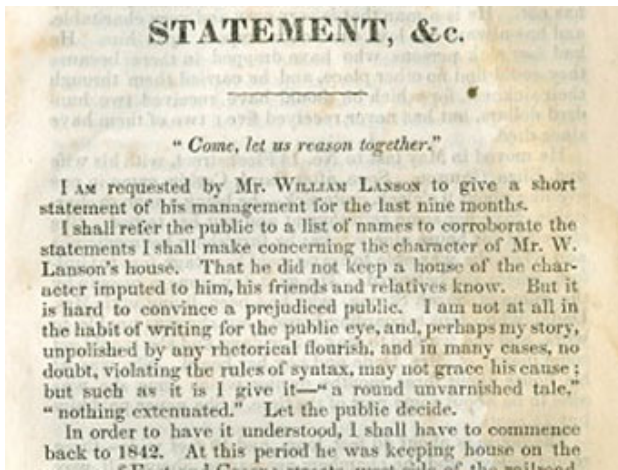
Resources:



## 1807 - New Jersey Restricts Voting to Free, White Males

One of the earliest acts of suffrage restriction was New Jersey's disenfranchisement of women in 1807. After an election to determine the site of a new courthouse in Essex County, New Jersey's legislature declared that "no person shall vote in any state or county election for officers in the government of the United States or of this state, unless such person be a free, white male citizen.

Resources:

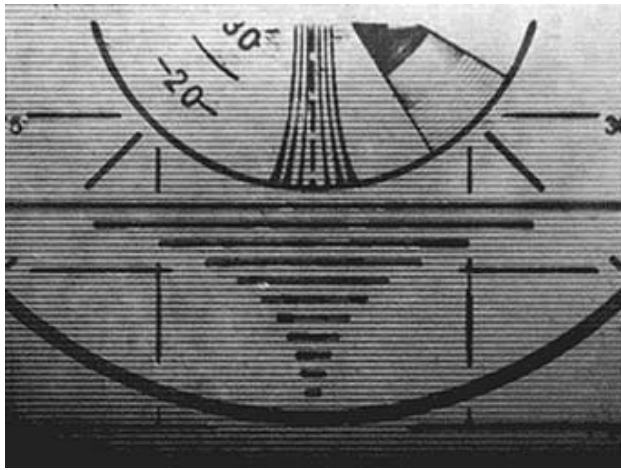


## 1814 - Connecticut Defines Freeman as White

Until 1814 in Connecticut, a black landowner could vote, but the state legislature ruled that year that the term "freeman" meant free white man, excluding free black men, such as businessman William Lanson, from voting. Four years later, this exclusion was made part of the state's constitution.

### Resources:

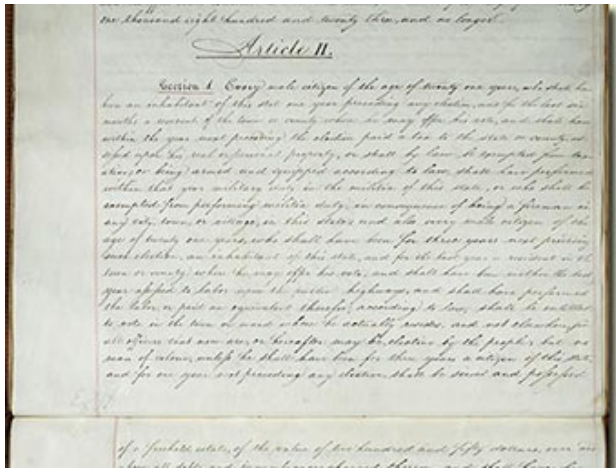
[The Attack on Black Citizenship in Connecticut \(http://www.yale.edu/glc/citizens/stories/module3/page3.html\)](http://www.yale.edu/glc/citizens/stories/module3/page3.html)



## 1819 - Maine Restricts Indian Voting

The Maine legislature decided that Native Americans who did not pay taxes would not be allowed to vote.

Resources:



## 1821 - Property Tax Requirement Applies Only to Black Men

Massachusetts and New York eliminated their property requirement for white men to vote, but black men in New York still had to own property to vote.

### Resources:

Transcription of New York Constitution of 1821 ([http://www.archives.nysed.gov/education/showcase/201011afamvoting/trans\\_1821.shtml](http://www.archives.nysed.gov/education/showcase/201011afamvoting/trans_1821.shtml))



## 1825 - Maryland Grants Jews Voting Rights

In Maryland, Jewish people were granted voting rights and eligibility as candidates.

Resources:



## 1827 - Few Black New Yorkers Allowed to Vote

Led by statesman John Jay, New York abolished slavery. At the time, only 16 black New Yorkers were qualified to vote because voting was restricted to those who held property.

Resources:

[Winning the Vote \(http://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/government-and-civics/essays/winning-vote-history-voting-rights\)](http://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/government-and-civics/essays/winning-vote-history-voting-rights)





## 1828 - Benjamin Franklin Makes Case for Suffrage

Benjamin Franklin wrote: "Today a man owns a jackass worth fifty dollars and he is entitled to vote; but before the next election the jackass dies. The man in the meantime has become more experienced, his knowledge of the principles of government, and his acquaintance with mankind, are more extensive, and he is therefore better qualified to make a proper selection of rulers -- but the jackass is dead and the man cannot vote. Now gentlemen, pray inform me, in whom is the right of suffrage? In the man or in the jackass?" - *The Casket, or the Flowers of Literature, Wit and Sentiment*.

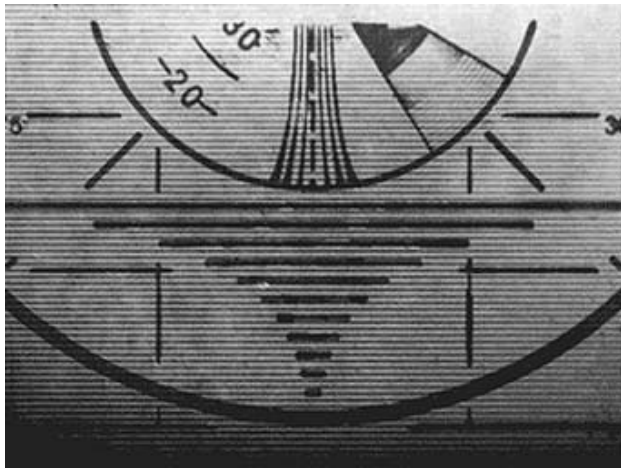
Resources:



## 1830 - Religion and Property Restrictions Abandoned

By this date, most states have abolished property and religious voting tests, which primarily impacted Jews, Catholics and Quakers.

Resources:



## 1830 - Partisan Struggle Begins Over Voting Rights

In New York, the 1830s witnessed the beginning of a prolonged partisan struggle over voter registration. Early proposals were unmistakably designed to hinder voting by Irish Catholic immigrants.

Resources:



## 1838 - Female Vote Expanded in Kentucky

Widows and unmarried women in Kentucky who owned property subject to taxation for school purposes were given the right to vote in school elections.

Resources:

[The Right To Vote \(http://books.google.com/books?id=uRk-eQBduu8C&pg=PA3&source=gbs\\_toc\\_r&cad=4#v=onepage&q&f=false\)](http://books.google.com/books?id=uRk-eQBduu8C&pg=PA3&source=gbs_toc_r&cad=4#v=onepage&q&f=false)



## 1841 - Landless Population in Rhode Island Means Fewer Can Vote

As Rhode Island grew increasingly urban and industrial, the state's landless population increased and fewer residents were eligible to vote. By 1841, just 11,239 out of 26,000 adult males were qualified to vote.

Resources:

Winning the Vote (<http://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/government-and-civics/essays/winning-vote-history-voting-rights>)



## 1841 - Voting Rights Advocate Abandons Call for Black Suffrage

Thomas Dorr, who agitated to allow men with one year's residence to vote in Rhode Island in the early 1840s, originally supported the black vote but changed his mind under pressure from white immigrants. He led an unsuccessful rebellion and was later arrested and jailed.

### Resources:

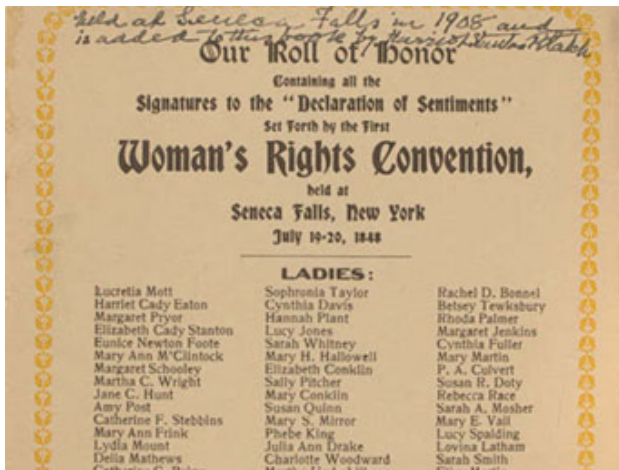
[The Industrial Revolution & Dorr's Rebellion \(http://rhodeislandsuffrage.org/resources/industrial-revolution/\)](http://rhodeislandsuffrage.org/resources/industrial-revolution/)



## 1842 - Rhode Island Bars Tribe from Voting

Native Americans in Rhode Island who were members of the Narragansett tribe were not allowed to vote.

Resources:

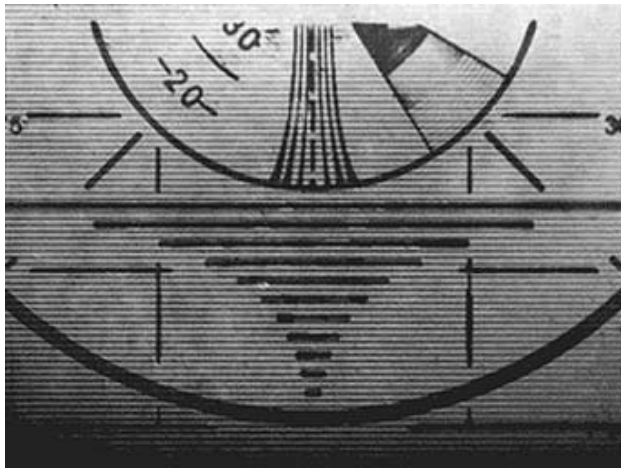


## 1848 - Elizabeth Cady Stanton Declares Rights of Women

Elizabeth Cady Stanton introduced the Declaration of Rights and Sentiments at the Seneca Falls Convention on July 19 and 20 at the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Seneca Falls, N.Y. This document set out a list of women's rights, including the right to vote. Approximately 260 women were in attendance as well as abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

Resources:

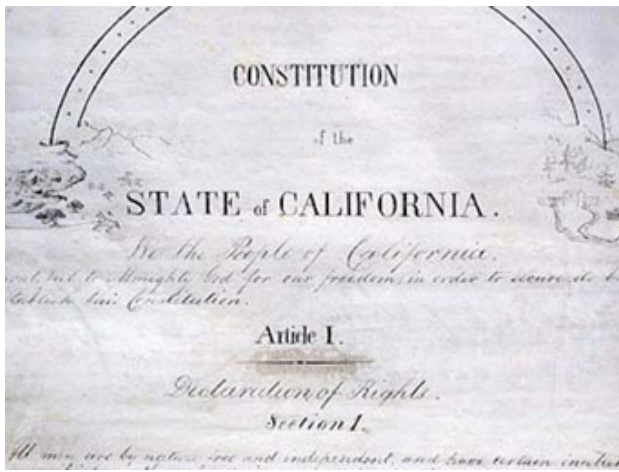




## 1848 - Voting Rights of Mexican-Americans Denied

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the Mexican-American War, giving Mexicans in Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas U.S. citizenship. Through introduction of property and literacy requirements, along with violence and intimidation, their voting rights were denied.

Resources:

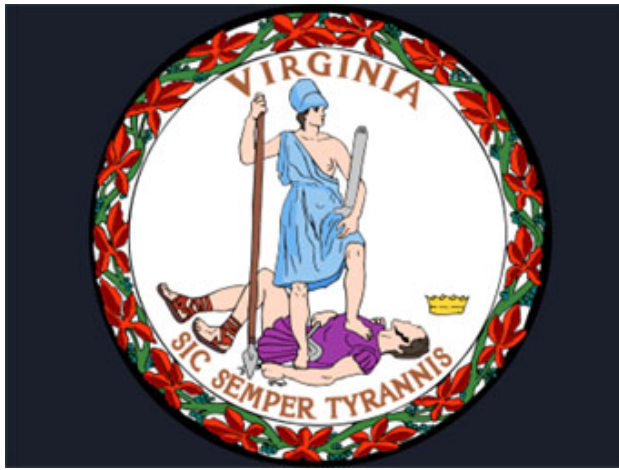


## 1849 - California Legislature Requires Two-Thirds Vote for American Indian Suffrage

In order for Indians to vote in California, the Legislature had to, "by a two-thirds concurrent vote," extend to Indians the right of suffrage.

### Resources:

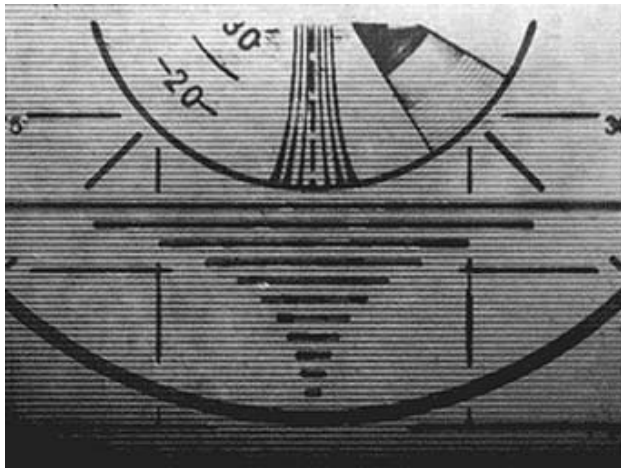
The Right To Vote ([http://books.google.com/books?id=uRk-eQBduu8C&pg=PA3&source=gbs\\_toc\\_r&cad=4#v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=uRk-eQBduu8C&pg=PA3&source=gbs_toc_r&cad=4#v=onepage&q&f=false))



## 1850 - Virginia and North Carolina Last to Drop Property Requirements for Voters

Virginia and North Carolina were the last states to eliminate property requirements for voting (with the exception of those convicted of certain crimes in North Carolina).

Resources:



## 1850 - Rhode Island Bars Foreign-Born Residents from Voting

In the late 1850s, Rhode Island would not allow foreign-born residents to vote unless they were property holders.

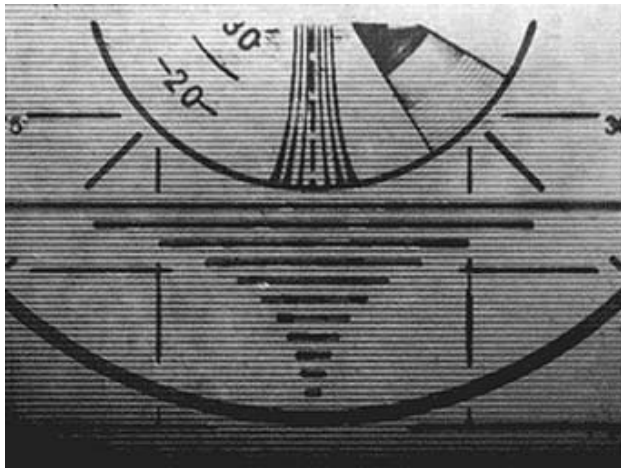
Resources:



## 1851 - Women Agitate for Right to Vote

At a women's rights convention in Akron, Ohio, women were heckled by many men, including several ministers, who were opposed to female suffrage. It was at this conference that Sojourner Truth, a former slave, gave her famous "Ain't I a Woman" speech.

Resources:

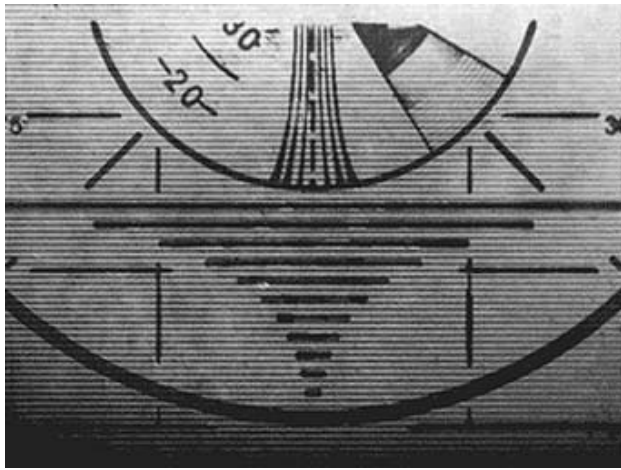


## 1857 - Dred Scott Decision Denies Citizenship to Blacks, Free or Slave

The federal government prohibited blacks from voting in the territories it controlled and, in 1857, the Supreme Court ruled in *Dred Scott v. Sandford* that blacks, free or slave, could not be citizens of the United States.

Resources:

[Scott v. Sandford \(https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/60/393/case.html\)](https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/60/393/case.html)



## 1860 - Five States Allow Free Blacks to Vote

Five states (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island and Massachusetts) allowed free blacks to vote.

Resources:

# CIVIL WAR/ RECONSTRUCTION

1860 -  
CIVIL WAR/RECONSTRUCTION

Resources:





## 1861 - Civil War Breaks Out

War broke out after Southern states seceded from the United States to preserve slavery; after the South's surrender in 1865, slavery was abolished in the United States.

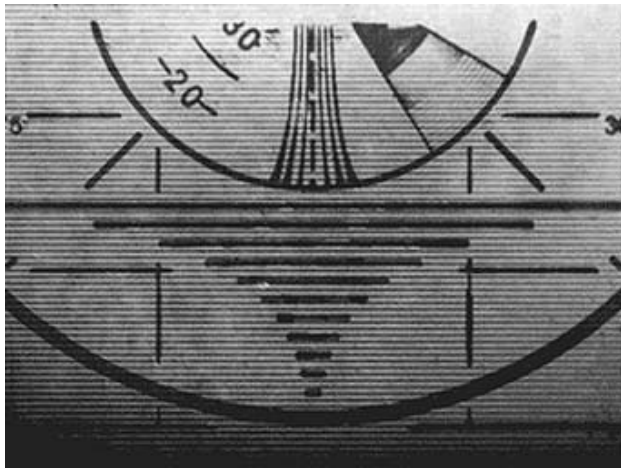
Resources:



## 1863 - Lincoln Emancipates Slaves

President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation that declares all slaves forever free in the Confederate States only.

Resources:



## 1865 - 13th Amendment Approved

Slavery is abolished in the United States with the passage of the 13th Amendment to Constitution at the end of the Civil War.

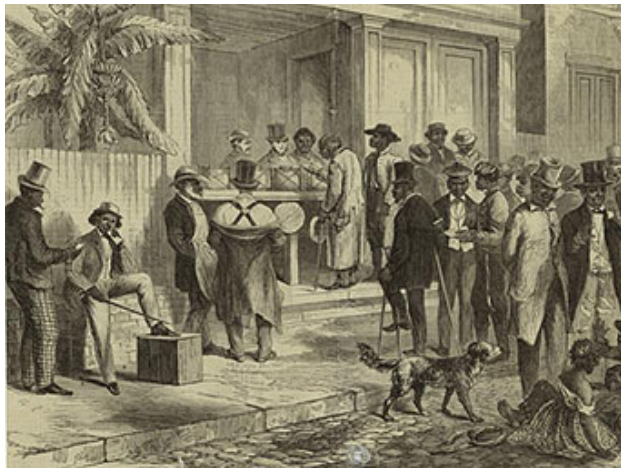
Resources:



## 1866 - Civil Rights Law Extends Citizenship to All Born in Country

The Civil Rights Act of 1866, sponsored by Sen. Lyman Trumbull of Illinois, granted citizenship but not the right to vote, to all native-born Americans.

Resources:



## 1866 - New Laws Guarantee Civil Rights for Black

Between 1866 and 1869, Congress enacted new laws and proposed the 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution, guaranteeing blacks' civil rights and giving black men the right to vote. This led directly to the creation of new governments in the South elected by blacks as well as whites, America's first experiment in interracial democracy.

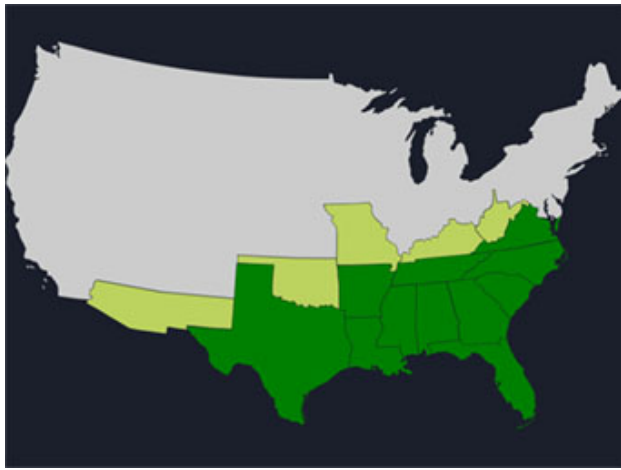
Resources:



## 1866 - American Equal Rights Association Formed

The 11th National Women's Rights Convention, the first since the start of the Civil War, was held in New York City. Lucretia Mott presided over a merger between suffragists and the American Anti-Slavery Association: The new group was called the American Equal Rights Association.

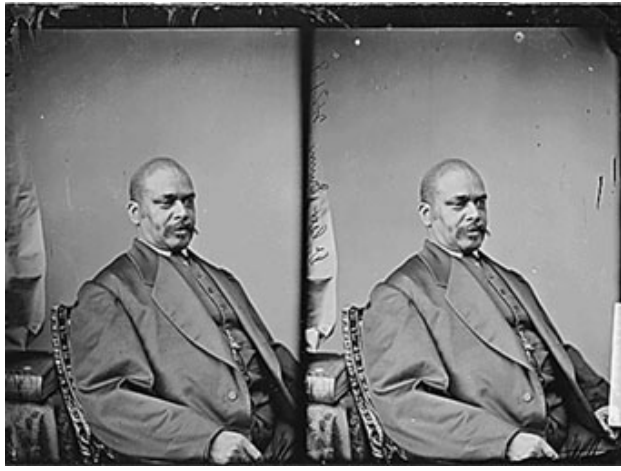
Resources:



## 1867 - Former Confederate States Ordered to Grant Black Voting Rights

The 1867 Military Reconstruction Acts required 10 former Confederate states to adopt constitutions guaranteeing suffrage to African-Americans.

Resources:



## 1868 - Louisiana Sends Black Man to Congress

The Louisiana Republican Party platform included a plank embracing equality for African-Americans. John W. Menard, a black man, was elected to Congress from Louisiana but barred from taking his seat by white members of Congress. Oscar J. Dunn, a former slave, was elected lieutenant governor of Louisiana.

Resources:





## 1869 - Wyoming First to Grant Women Full Suffrage

The territory of Wyoming was the first to grant unrestricted suffrage to women. Arguments over the 15th Amendment led to a split in the suffragette movement.

Resources:

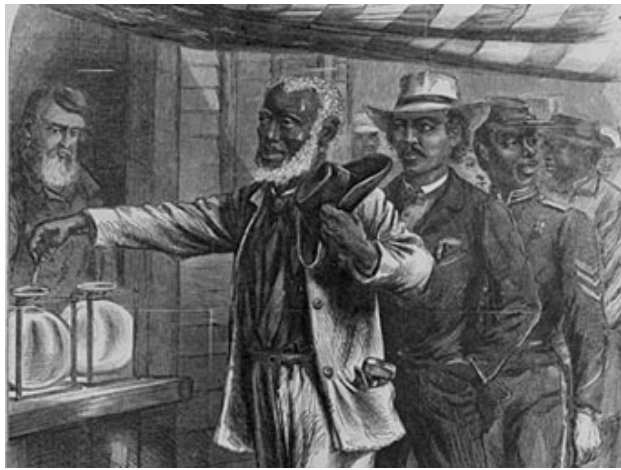


## 1869 - Massachusetts Extends Rights to Indians and People of Color

Indians and people of color in Massachusetts were granted citizenship in the Commonwealth and entitled to all the rights, privileges and immunities of a citizen.

### Resources:

[The Right To Vote \(http://books.google.com/books?id=uRk-eQBduu8C&pg=PA3&source=gbs\\_toc\\_r&cad=4#v=onepage&q&f=false\)](http://books.google.com/books?id=uRk-eQBduu8C&pg=PA3&source=gbs_toc_r&cad=4#v=onepage&q&f=false)



## 1870 - 15th Amendment Ensures African-Americans Right to Vote

The 15th Amendment was ratified by the states, giving freed male slaves and other African-Americans the right to vote.

The 15th Amendment said the right to vote could not be denied on account of race or previous condition of servitude. It did not explicitly guarantee the right to hold office or serve on juries, nor did it ensure federal protection of voting rights.

On Feb. 25, Hiram Rhodes Revels was elected the first black member of the Senate, becoming the first black member of the Congress. In December, Joseph Rainey of South Carolina was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, becoming the first directly elected black member of Congress, but second to serve behind Revels.

(Foner, Eric. *Freedom's Lawmakers: A Directory of Black Officeholders during Reconstruction*. 1996. Revised. ISBN 0-8071-2082-0.)

Resources:



## 1870 - First Woman Casts Vote in Wyoming

Eliza A. "Grandma" Swain of Laramie was the first woman to cast a vote in Wyoming; Esther Morris and Caroline Neil were appointed justices of the peace of Sweetwater County.

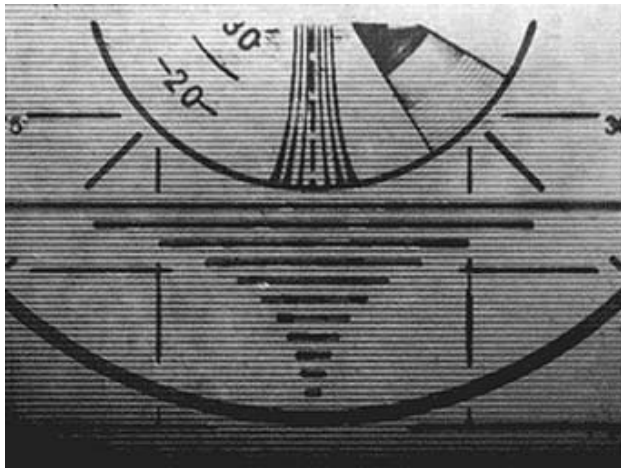
Resources:



## 1870 - Utah Territory Approves Full Suffrage

The Utah Territorial Legislature approved full suffrage for women, enfranchising 17,179 women.

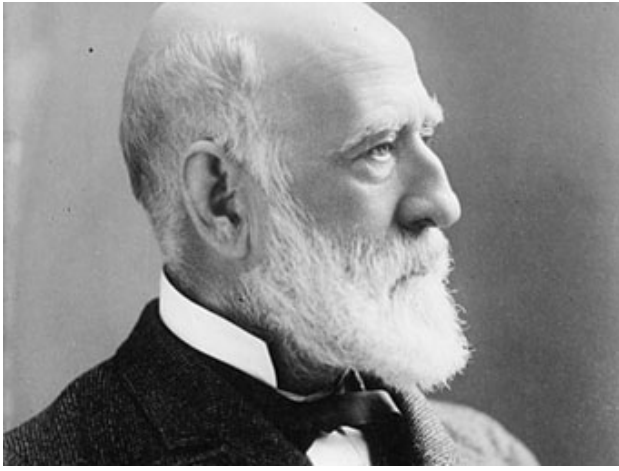
Resources:



## 1870 - Naturalization Act Excludes Chinese

The Naturalization Act excluded Chinese from citizenship and voting. It also prohibited the wives of Chinese laborers from entering the United States.

Resources:



## 1870 - New York Times Urges Utah to Ban Polygamy before Supporting Women's Suffrage

The New York Times, which supported women's suffrage in Utah as part of federal legislation, argued after the Female Suffrage Bill passed the Utah legislature in 1870 that the "downfall of polygamy is too important to be imperiled by experiments in woman suffrage." Legislation calling for disenfranchisement, styled as "purification" of elections in Utah, was introduced in Congress at subsequent sessions.

Resources:



## 1878 - Senate Amendment Urges Voting Rights for Women

The first federal amendment that would give women the right to vote was introduced by Sen. A.A. Sargeant of California.

### Resources:

California: Women Work for Wages, Votes, and Visibility ([http://theautry.org/explore/exhibits/suffrage/suffrage\\_ca.html](http://theautry.org/explore/exhibits/suffrage/suffrage_ca.html))

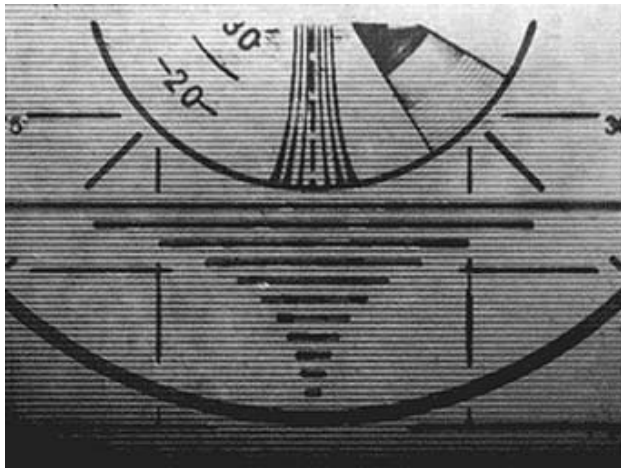




## 1878 - Court Upholds Barriers to Chinese Naturalization

The bar against naturalizing Chinese immigrants was upheld by a federal court. The issue remained alive as late as 1922 when the Cable Act declared that any woman who married an alien ineligible for citizenship would cease to be a citizen of the United States.

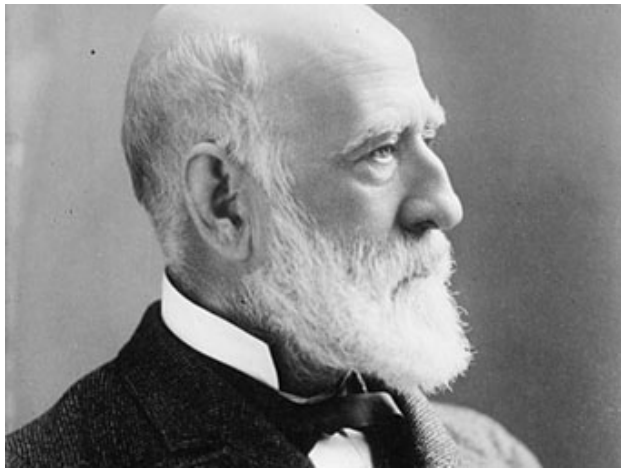
Resources:



## 1882 - Act Bars Chinese from Voting, Citizenship Rights

The Chinese Exclusion Act barred people of Chinese ancestry from becoming American citizens, thus denying them the right to vote.

Resources:



## 1882 - Act Denies Polygamists Right to Vote

The Edmunds Anti-Polygamy Act of 1882 stripped the right to vote from all Mormons who practiced or were in support of polygamy.

Resources:



## 1883 - Women in Washington Territory Granted Full Voting Rights

Women in the Washington territory were granted full voting rights. Prominent suffragists traveled to Liverpool, where they formed the International Council of Women. At this meeting, the leaders of the National Woman Suffrage Association and American Woman Suffrage Association worked together, laying the foundation for a reconciliation between these two groups.

Resources:



## 1884 - Temperance Union Calls for Revocation of Women Suffrage

Woman's Christian Temperance Union activist Angelina French Newman joined the increasing dissent for suffrage of Mormon women by submitting a petition calling for the revocation of woman suffrage, which boasted a total of 250,000 signatures.

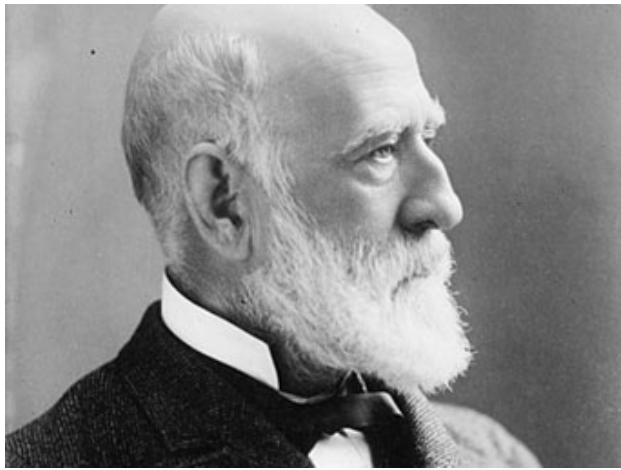
Resources:



## 1884 - Native American Voting Rights Denied in Supreme Court Ruling

In a setback to Native American voting rights, the Supreme Court ruled in *Elk v. Wilkins* that John Elk, a Native American from Nebraska, could not vote.

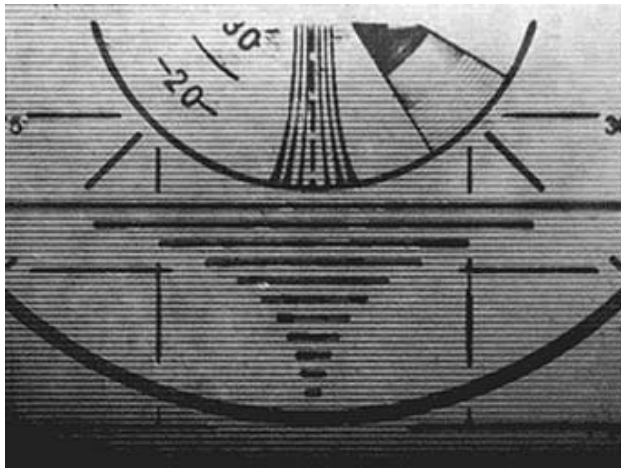
Resources:



## 1886 - Mormon Women Granted Right to Vote

The Senate began debating a second Edmunds bill giving Mormon women the right to vote, which would ultimately pass. Edmunds said his bill would "relieve the Mormon women of Utah from the slavehood of being obliged to exercise a political function that kept her in a state of degradation." But the women's vote played into traditional theories that the best and truest "protection" of married women was by their husbands, not political power.

Resources:



## 1886 - Asian Non-citizens Win Discrimination Case

Asian non-citizens won an important discrimination case when the Supreme Court, in *Yick Wo v. Hopkins*, struck down a San Francisco law prohibiting laundry operations constructed of wood. The justices said the ordinance violated the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment since it was clearly aimed at Chinese operators. The court said "No reason...exists (for the law) except hostility to the race and nationality to which the petitioners belong, and which in the eyes of the law is not justified."

Resources:

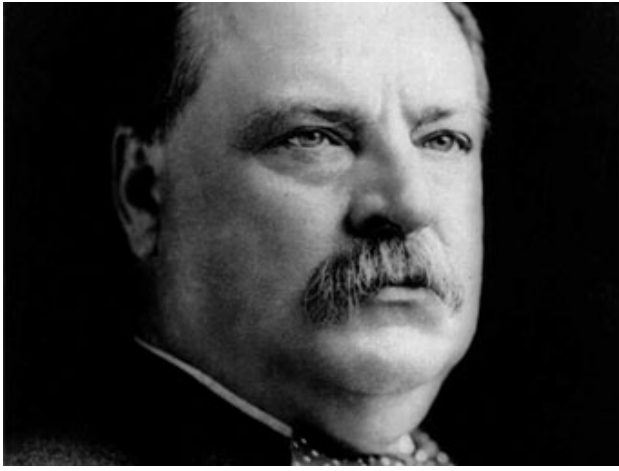




## 1887 - Court Strikes Down Enfranchisement in Washington Territory

The Supreme Court struck down the law that enfranchised women in the Washington territory. Meanwhile, Congress passed the Edmunds-Tucker Act, disenfranchising all Utah women. Kansas women won the right to vote in municipal elections.

Resources:



## 1887 - Native Americans Given Citizenship if They Give Up Tribes

Congress passed and President Grover Cleveland signed the Dawes General Allotment Act, which granted citizenship - but not the right to vote - only to Native Americans who gave up their tribal affiliations.

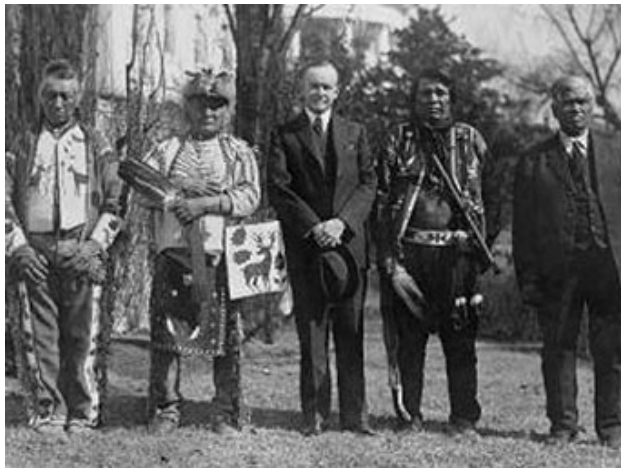
Resources:



## 1890 - Voters Required to Pass a Test, Swear Not to be Mormon

To qualify as a voter in territorial Idaho in 1890, each male of 21 years or more had to pass a test, swearing that his religious affiliation was not to Mormonism.

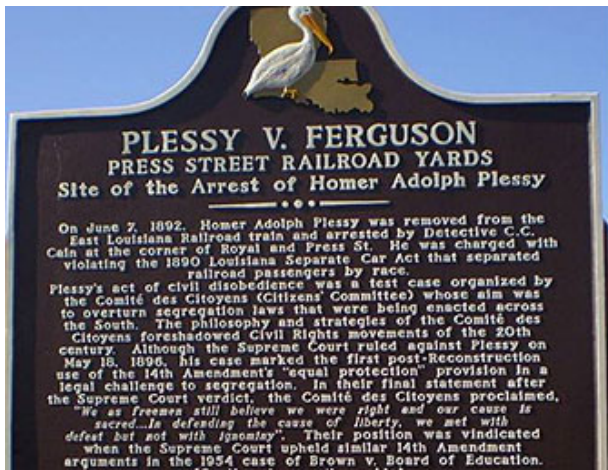
Resources:



## 1890 - Indian Naturalization Act Grants Citizenship by Application

The Indian Naturalization Act granted citizenship to Native Americans through an application process.

Resources:



## 1896 - Black Voting Drops in Louisiana with "Grandfather Clause"

The adoption of a new "grandfather clause" by Louisiana legislators disenfranchised African-American voters, causing the percent of registered black voters to drop from 44.8 percent in 1896 to 4.0 percent four years later. In addition to Louisiana, statewide conventions specifically designed to undermine black voting continued to be held in Mississippi, South Carolina, Alabama and Virginia until 1902.

Resources:



## 1897 - Residency Disenfranchises Indian Reservations

In Montana, a one-year residency requirement effectively disenfranchised those living on Indian reservations because the reservation was not considered part of the state.

Resources:



## 1898 - Court Validates Mississippi Literacy Test

The Supreme Court validated Mississippi's literacy test in *Williams v. Mississippi*, which stemmed from an African-American's murder conviction by an all-white jury. Henry Williams argued that he did not get a fair trial because blacks were excluded from the jury, which was drawn from voting rolls. The case brought suffrage provisions of Mississippi's 1890 Constitution under scrutiny. But the court said the literacy test was written in a manner that did not discriminate on the basis of race. Consequently, the tests served as a legitimate means of discerning voter eligibility. A rejected voter would have the difficult burden of proving in court that the exam had been administered in a racially biased way.

Resources:

# TURN OF THE CENTURY

1898 -  
TURN OF THE CENTURY

Resources:





## 1899 - Idaho to Native Americans: Adopt the Habits of Civilization Before Voting

In Idaho, the right to vote excluded Native Americans who were not taxed, who had not severed their tribal relations and who had not adopted the "habits of civilization".

Resources:



## 1900 - Native Americans Voting Rights Vary by State

Including Native Americans in the electoral process in a state like Vermont did not arouse controversy: The Census in 1900 counted all of five Native Americans in the state. But in states with a significant indigenous population, non-Native Americans generally tried to keep Indians out of the voting booth.

Resources:



## 1906 - San Francisco Earthquake Leads to Citizenship for Many Chinese

Because the San Francisco earthquake destroyed municipal records, many Chinese immigrants claimed to have been born in the United States. This allowed them to bring their wives and children into the country and gain citizenship, including the right to vote.

Resources:



## 1909 - Labor Strike Draws Women into Suffrage Movement

The Women's Trade Union League coordinated a strike by 20,000 women workers in New York's garment district. Wealthy women supported the strike with a boycott. Through strikes, working class women connected with the suffrage movement.

Resources:



1912 -  
WORLD WARS

Resources:



## 1915 - Court Rules Oklahoma Law Disenfranchises Black Men

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Guinn v. United States* that Oklahoma's "grandfather clause," which was used to disenfranchise black men, was unconstitutional.

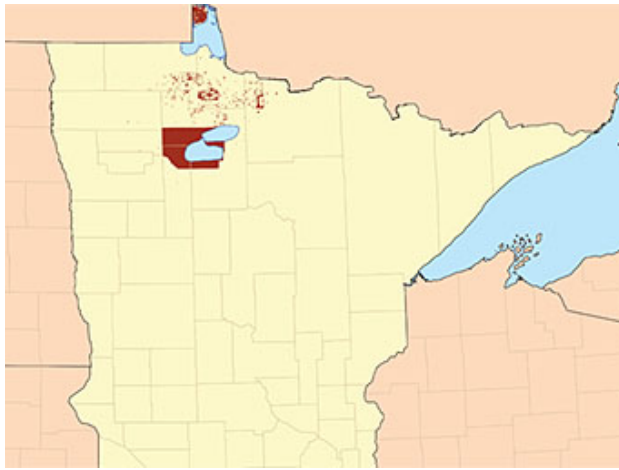
Resources:



## 1915 - Native American Wins Voting Rights in California

In 1915, Native American Ethan Anderson tried to register in Lake County, Calif., but was turned away by the county clerk. For two years, Anderson and other Native Americans in California raised money for a lawsuit, and in 1917 Anderson went to court and won, gaining voting rights for Native Americans in California who did not live on a reservation.

Resources:



## 1917 - Minnesota Court Denies Tribal Members Right to Vote

In a setback to Native American voting rights, the Minnesota Supreme Court in *Opsahl v. Johnson* denied members of the Red Lake Chippewa Tribe the right to vote.

Resources:

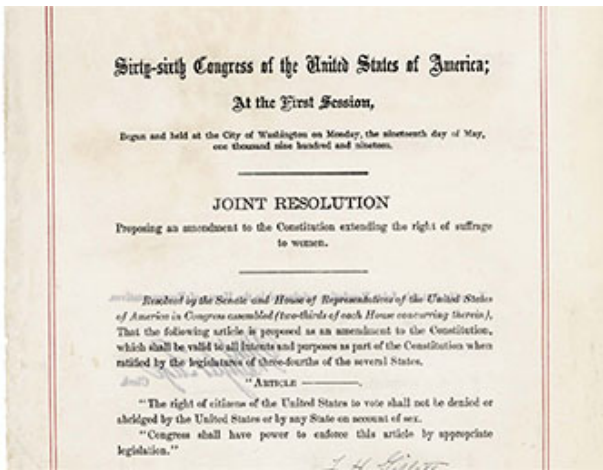




## 1917 - Puerto Ricans Gain Right to Vote in Presidential Primaries

Puerto Ricans were given U.S. citizenship when Congress passed the Jones Act in 1917, but it came with restrictions: Puerto Ricans did not pay U.S. income taxes and could vote in presidential primaries but not in the general election.

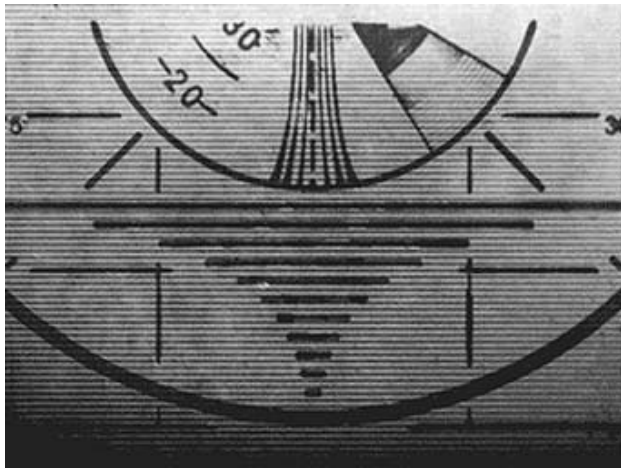
Resources:



## 1920 - Women Win Right to Vote with 19th Amendment

The 19th Amendment, proposed by Congress on June 4, 1919, was ratified by the states and became law, giving women nationally the right to vote.

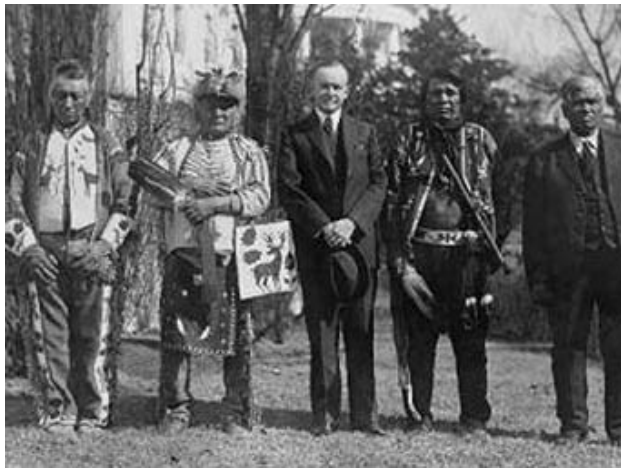
Resources:



## 1920 - North Dakota Indians Can Vote if They Abandon Tribes

A court case, *Swift v. Leach*, resulted in a decision that allowed Native Americans in North Dakota to vote without having to first abandon their tribal connections.

Resources:



## 1924 - Congress Secures Citizenship for Native Americans

Universal citizenship arrived through the Citizenship Act, passed by Congress. The act did not make all Native Americans eligible to vote, but it did confer citizenship on about 125,000 people.

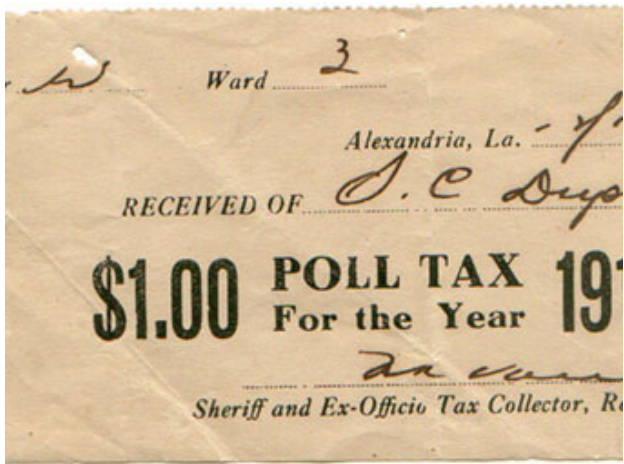
Resources:

## 1928 - Native Americans in Arizona Fight for Right to Vote



Two Native American men, members of the Pima tribe and residents of the Gila River reservation, tried to vote Nov. 8 in the first presidential election since the passage of the Citizenship Act but were denied by Pinal County officials. The Arizona Supreme Court determined that Native Americans living on reservations in Arizona were residents of the state, but as persons under guardianship, were not entitled to vote.

Resources:



## 1940 - Voter Registration Rises for Southern Blacks

Between 1940 and 1947, the percentage of Southern blacks registered to vote rose from 3 percent to 12 percent. In 1946, a presidentially appointed National Committee on Civil Rights called for abolition of poll taxes and for federal action to protect voting rights of African-Americans and Native Americans.

Resources:



## 1943 - Youth Fight for Rights with 'Old Enough to Fight, Old Enough to Vote' Slogan

During World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt lowered the minimum age for the military draft to 18, at a time when the minimum voting age (determined by the states) had historically been 21. "Old enough to fight, old enough to vote" became a common slogan for a youth voting rights movement, and in 1943 Georgia became the first state to lower its voting age in state and local elections from 21 to 18.


### Resources:

[The 26th Amendment \(http://www.history.com/topics/the-26th-amendment\)](http://www.history.com/topics/the-26th-amendment)

San Francisco, Cal., NOV 21 1916, 191

Immigration from China, Commission of Immigration, Port of San Francisco—

Certificate of Identity No. 2425/16, issued to the  
 Name Yee Hae Thing Age 10  
 Height 4 feet, 10 1/2 inches Occupation Student  
 Place SAN FRANCISCO Admitted as See Nat. C.  
 No. 15669 U.S. Entry March 31, 1916  
 Physical marks Get near enter corner right eye.  
 Give first arrival and all subsequent trips:  
 First arrival Present.  
 Departed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Returned \_\_\_\_\_  
 Departed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Returned \_\_\_\_\_  
 Departed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Returned \_\_\_\_\_  
 Did you register? (If not, give reasons.) Yes.  
 Have you any other papers showing your right to be and remain in the United States? Yes.



## 1943 - Congress Removes Bars to Naturalization

Congress gradually removed racial bars to naturalization, first for the Chinese in 1943 (since China was an ally against Japan during World War II). In 1946, Asian Indians and Filipinos were allowed to naturalize.

Resources:





## 1944 - Court Rules Texas Democrats Can't Restrict Racial Membership

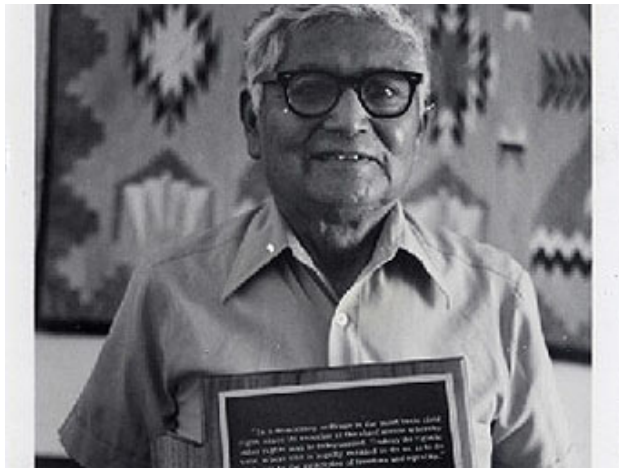
In *Smith v. Allwright*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Texas Democratic Party could not restrict membership to whites only and bar blacks from voting in the party's primary.

Resources:



1946 -  
CIVIL RIGHTS ERA

Resources:



## 1948 - Arizona Lifts Ban on Native Americans

The Arizona Supreme Court ruled that Native Americans were citizens and had a right to vote after Frank Harrison and Harry Austin of the McDowell Reservation sued to overturn an earlier ruling that Native people could not vote because they were under guardianship.

### Resources:

[The "Rez" Vote \(http://www.newsplink.com/2009/09/14/the-rez-vote/\)](http://www.newsplink.com/2009/09/14/the-rez-vote/)



## 1952 - McCarran-Walter Act Removes Racial Bar to Naturalization

The McCarran-Walter Act removed the racial bar to naturalization. Ten years after the enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Congress would extend and amend the act to include protection for language-minority groups when they account for 5 percent of the voting-age population of any jurisdiction.

Resources:



## 1954 - Eisenhower Favors Lowering Voting Age

President Dwight D. Eisenhower favored lowering the voting age and declared: "For years our citizens between the ages of 18 and 21 have, in time of peril, been summoned to fight for America. They should participate in the political process that produces this fateful summons."

Resources:



## 1963 - King Marches on Washington, Calls for Voting Rights

The 1963 march on Washington, which was led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., called for the right to vote, among other civil-rights demands. King made his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

Resources:



## 1964 - Voting Rights Advocates Murdered

The brutal murders of three volunteers for the Council of Federated Organizations -- James Chaney, an African-American; Michael Schwerner, who was Jewish; and Andrew Goodman, who was white -- galvanized the Civil Rights movement. The three men were kidnapped near Philadelphia, Miss., while working to register blacks to vote.

Resources:



## 1965 - Alabama State Police Attack Voting Rights Marchers

During a march for voting rights in Selma, Ala., protesters were trapped and attacked on the Edmund Pettus Bridge by state troopers. Many, including current U.S. Rep. John Lewis, were beaten. It was captured on television and spurred calls for greater civil rights protection.

Resources:

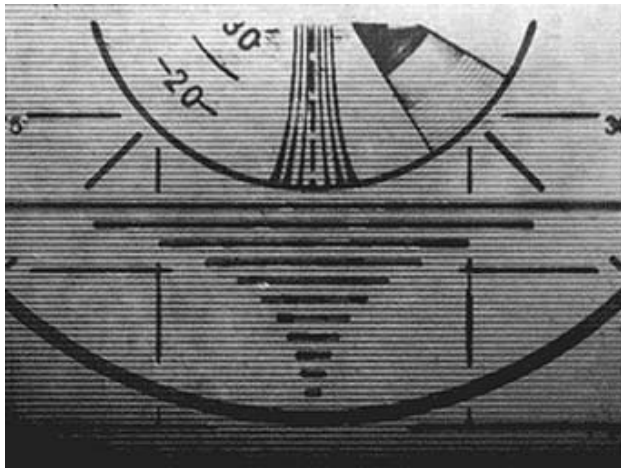




## 1965 - Johnson Signs Voting Rights Act

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson, suspending literacy tests in the Deep South and providing federal enforcement of black registration and voting rights.

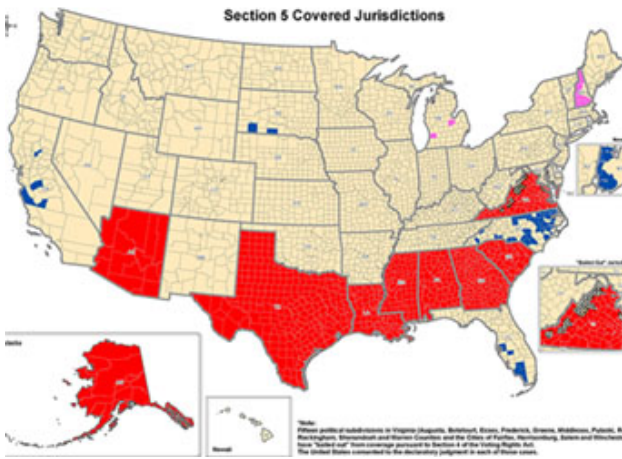
Resources:



## 1965 - Immigration and Nationality Act Milestone for Asian-Americans

No law has had a greater impact on the Asian-American community than the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965. Before it, Asians were either barred from immigrating to the United States or limited by quotas established by the Immigration Act of 1924. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 also contributed to passage of this milestone immigration law that abolished the national origins quotas set in 1924 and created a new set of categories based on family reunification and professional skills.

Resources:



## 1969 - Some States Forced to Seek Approval for Voting Law Changes

In *Allen v. the State Board of Elections*, the Supreme Court reaffirmed that any voting qualification or prerequisite to voting must be approved by the federal government in the following states: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, most of Virginia and some counties and jurisdictions of California, Florida, New Hampshire, New York, Michigan, North Carolina and South Dakota.

Resources:

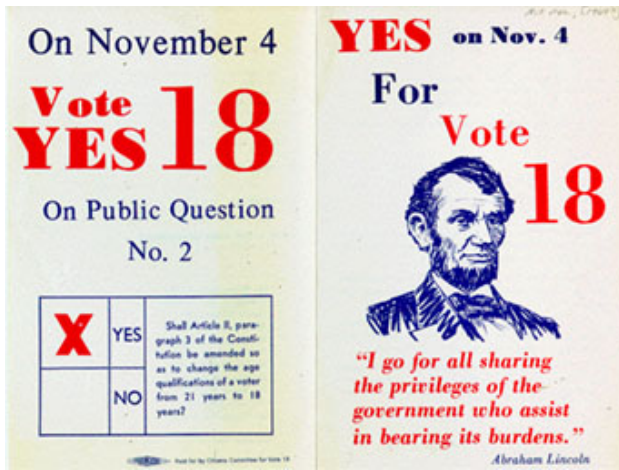


## 1970 - Voting Rights Debated for 18-year-olds

The extended Voting Rights Act called for lowering the voting age to 18. President Richard Nixon favored the new age but said it required a constitutional amendment: "Although I strongly favor the 18-year-old vote, I believe -- along with most of the nation's leading constitutional scholars -- that Congress has no power to enact it by simple statute, but rather it requires a constitutional amendment."

Resources:

[The 26th Amendment \(http://www.history.com/topics/the-26th-amendment\)](http://www.history.com/topics/the-26th-amendment)



1971 -  
26th Amendment Lowers Voting Age to  
18

Congress proposed the 26th Amendment, lowering the voting age from 21 to 18. It was ratified by the states by July, record time for an amendment to win ratification.

Resources:

[The 26th Amendment \(http://www.history.com/topics/the-26th-amendment\)](http://www.history.com/topics/the-26th-amendment)