

# Voting Rights

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



**So you think you can VOTE?** Different groups gained the right to vote throughout the history of the United States. Keep track of the details below.



**In colonial times** and during the early years of our country, men had to prove that they owned \_\_\_\_\_ in order to be able to vote. Where did this idea come from?

\_\_\_\_\_

**All adult men** were guaranteed the right to vote in the year \_\_\_\_\_, when the \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment was passed.

Who could now vote? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Women** were guaranteed the right to vote in the year \_\_\_\_\_, when the \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment was passed. Which state gave women the vote first? \_\_\_\_\_

When was that? \_\_\_\_\_

**American Indians** were given U.S. citizenship and the right to vote in the year \_\_\_\_\_, when the president signed the \_\_\_\_\_.

Who was the president at that time?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Residents of the District of Columbia**, our nation's capital, gained the right to vote in presidential elections in the year \_\_\_\_\_ when the \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment was passed.

Although the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment said that race could not keep men from voting, **some states prevented African Americans from voting.**

Name three barriers:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

The Civil Rights Movement brought changes to the voting laws and practices in the U.S. What did the 24th Amendment ban in 1964?

\_\_\_\_\_ What was passed in 1965? \_\_\_\_\_

The Constitution changed **the voting age from 21** to \_\_\_\_\_ when the \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment was passed in 1971. Which war influenced this change? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Voting Rights: A Brief History

GROUP OF AMERICANS	DATE	LAW OR AMENDMENT	FACTOID
Adult White Men with Property	Colonial Times	Traditional <i>English Law</i> and Custom	Many believed only landowners were responsible enough to make political decisions.
	1789	<i>The Constitution</i> gave the states the power to decide who could vote.	The Founding Fathers couldn't agree on rules for voting, so they passed the responsibility on to the states.
All White Adult Men	1820s-1880s	<i>State Constitutions</i> lifted the property requirement over a period of 60 years.	Thomas Paine supported ending the property requirement, while John Adams feared 'mob rule' without it.
All Adult Men	1870	<i>15th Amendment</i> : voting shall not be denied on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.	This was one of three 'Civil War Amendments' granting freedom and rights to ex-slaves. Later, many state laws, called Jim Crow Laws, were passed to undermine them.
Women	1920	<i>19th Amendment</i> : voting shall not be denied an account of sex	Women could vote in Wyoming by 1869, but it took the work of Susan B. Anthony and many others to get the amendment passed to extend this right nationwide.
Native Americans	1924	<i>Indian Citizenship Act</i> : gave native peoples the rights and privileges of American citizenship	Previously, Native Americans were not considered Americans, but rather members of their own tribal governments.
Residents of Washington, DC	1961	<i>23rd Amendment</i> : DC residents can vote for the president and have electoral votes based on population, as long as the number is less than the least populous state.	Washington, DC is not a state and only has a non-voting representative in Congress. Before the 23rd Amendment, these citizens could NOT vote for the President!
All American Citizens	1964	<i>24th Amendment</i> : banned the use of poll taxes in elections	A poll tax was one of many restrictions placed on African Americans' voting rights in the Jim Crow South.
All American Citizens	1965	<i>Voting Rights Act</i> : further protected the voting rights of all Americans by reinforcing the 15th Amendment.	This act outlawed voting practices used to discriminate against African Americans, like literacy tests and voter intimidation.
Citizens 18 years old and up	1971	<i>26th Amendment</i> : citizens who are 18 years of age or older cannot be denied the right to vote on account of age	In the 1960s and '70s thousands of young men were drafted to fight in the Vietnam War. Many were too young to vote. Supporters of this amendment chanted, "Old enough to fight, old enough to vote!"