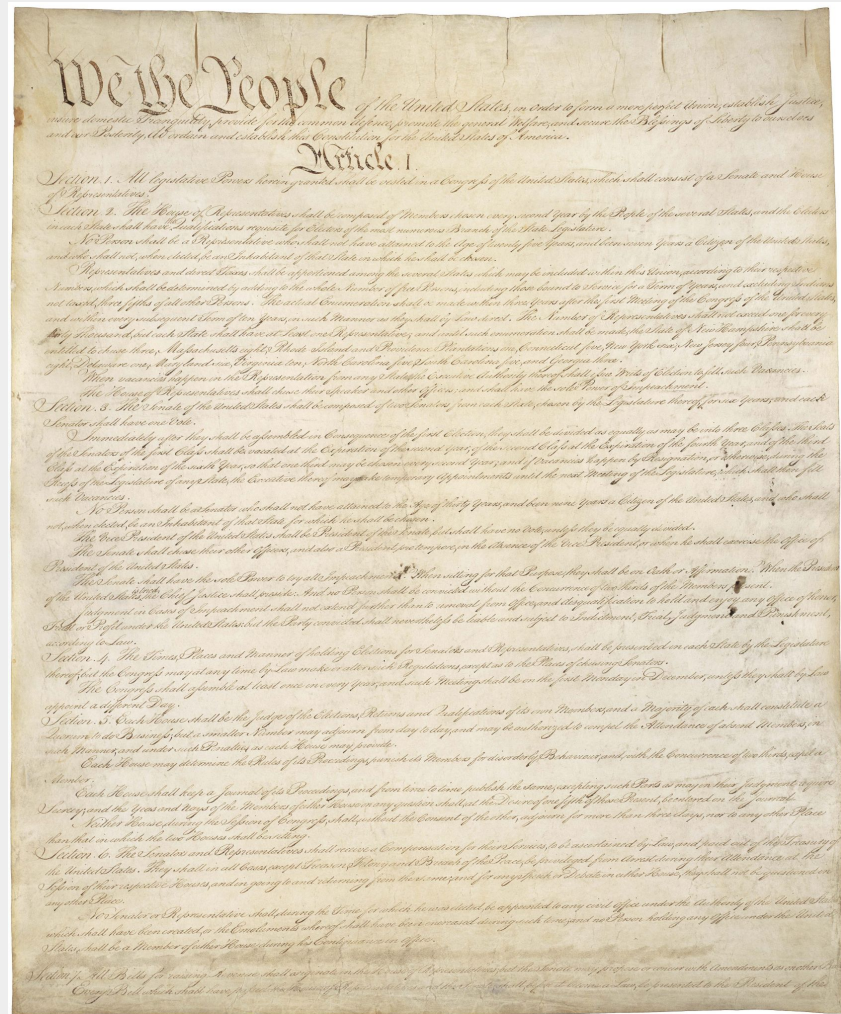


Voter Suppression, Expansion, and Turnout

September 17, 1787

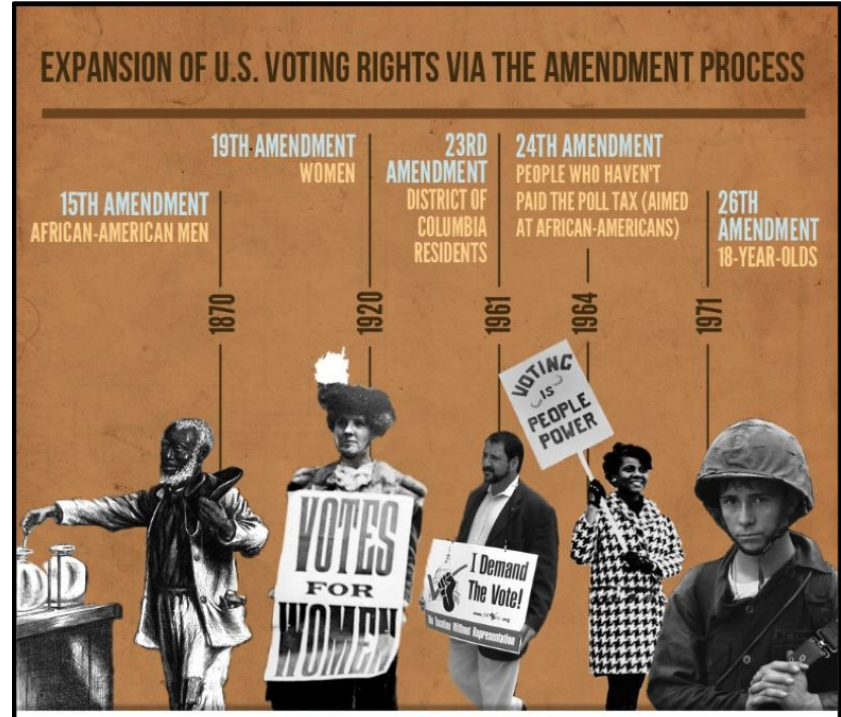
Who has the right to vote?



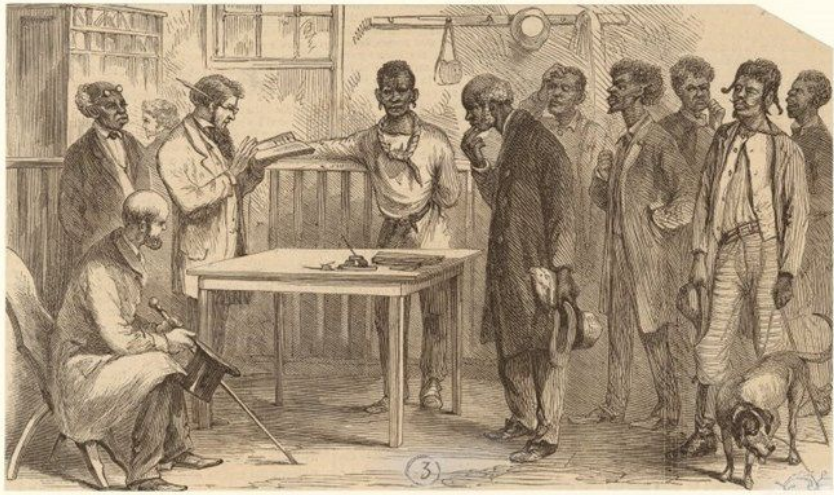
Constitutional Amendments that Expanded Suffrage

Multiple amendments expanded the right to vote:

- 15th Amendment
- 19th Amendment
- 26th Amendment



15th Amendment (1870)



- A citizen's race, color, or previous condition of servitude could not be used to deny their right to vote
- Expanded the right to vote to former male slaves
- Many southern states attempted to get around this amendment with methods of voter suppression
- Text of the Amendment:
 - *Section 1 - The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude*
 - *Section 2 - The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.*

19th Amendment (1920)

- A citizen's sex could not be used to deny their right to vote
- Granted women the right to vote
- Text of the Amendment:
 - *Section 1 - The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.*
 - *Section 2 - Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.*



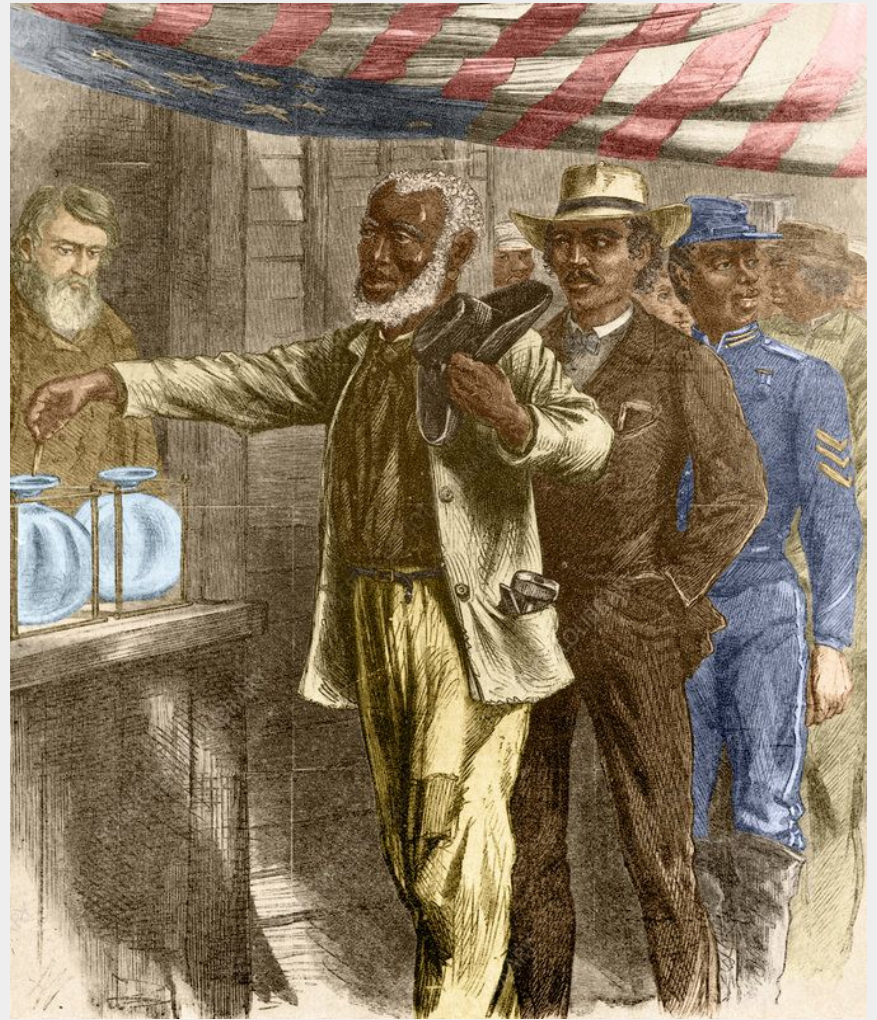
26th Amendment (1971)

- Gave citizens who were at least 18 years old the right to vote
- Text of the Amendment:
 - *Section 1 - The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.*
 - *Section 2 - The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.*



Voter Suppression

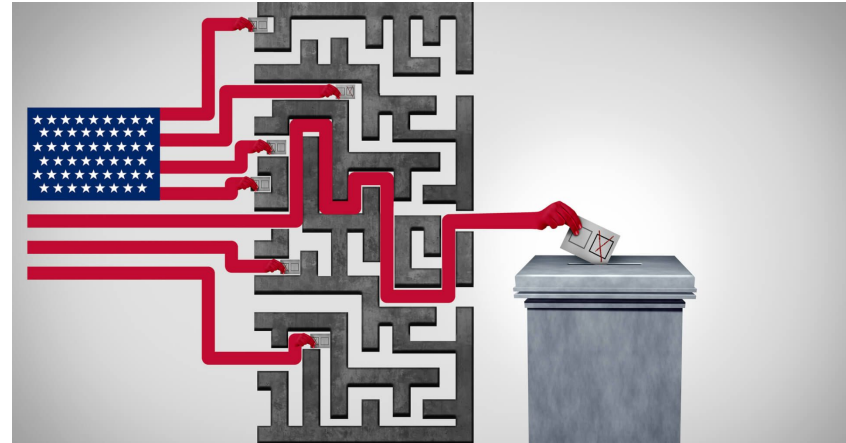
What does it mean for elections
to be free and fair?



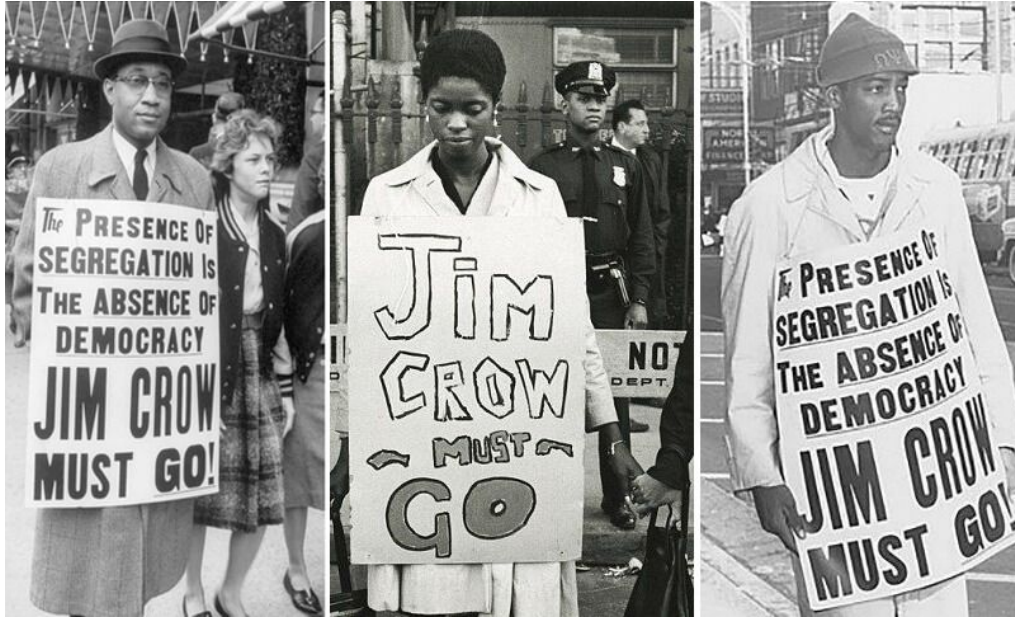
Voter Suppression

Any measure whose purpose is to reduce the likelihood of voting among a targeted group.

Various forms of voter suppression have occurred in the United States, including poll taxes, literacy tests, white primaries, and acts of violence.



Jim Crow Laws



- Any law in the United States that was meant to enforce racial segregation in the South from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century
- Term originates from a minstrel routine performed beginning in the 19th century and became a derogatory epithet for African Americans
- Laws became common after the Reconstruction period, when southern lawmakers regained control of state legislatures and imposed racial segregation in public life, such as public transportation and schools

Poll Taxes

- A required payment in order to vote
- Used in the United States as a form of voter suppression from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century, as many had trouble paying the tax
- The Democratic Party in the South attempted to retain political power by making it difficult for black and poor white citizens to vote
- Poll taxes were abolished by the 24th Amendment



Literacy Tests



- Requirement to demonstrate knowledge in order to vote; used in the United States from the mid-19th century to the mid-20th century
- States used these tests as a way of disenfranchising those they deemed as undesirable; initially Irish immigrants in the Northeast but more extensively African Americans in the South
- The tests were applied in an unfair manner; test administrators could ask more complex questions or require more complex answers of black respondents, allow for less time to answer questions, or change the amount of questions required to be answered correctly in order to pass

Did You Pass?

White Primaries

- Used in the United States from the late 19th century to the early 20th century as a form of voter suppression
- Democratic Party prohibited non-white citizens (mostly African Americans but also Mexican Americans) from registering with the party, which prevented them from participating in the primary elections
- Since the Democratic Party dominated the southern states without any real competition, the candidate who won the primary election would win the general election, making the primary the only meaningful election

Governor Shouts to Assembly That White Supremacy Must Be Maintained in Primaries

Legislators Asked To Consider Only Election Laws

Columbia, April 14.—(AP): "White supremacy will be maintained in our primaries. Let the chips fall where they may", Governor Olin D. Johnston shouted to 170 members of the general assembly called here in extraordinary session tonight to wipe from the state code all laws affecting primaries.

The legislators came back to the halls of the statehouse they left less than a month ago at the end of their regular annual session after the United States supreme court handed down an opinion that negroes were entitled to vote in the Texas Democratic primaries.

A sub-committee of the Democratic executive committee urged the governor to call the legislature

News of the Day in Brief

Washington, April 14.—(INS): Representative Dewey Short, Republican, Missouri, said tonight he probably would introduce next week a bill to extend until after the war the statute of limitations as it applies to initiating court martial proceedings against Admirals Husband and Harwood, who were in charge at Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941.

Glendale, Cal., April 14.—(INS): Seven airplanes and the central hangar at Grand Central airport in Glendale were destroyed today by fire which followed an explosion. Damage was estimated at \$500,000.

Charleston, S.C., April 14.—(INS): Judges are responsible only to the people for their official actions, Judge Charles Griffin as a co-defendant with Charlie Chaplin in conspiracy charges instigated by the police, said today.

Glendale, Cal., April 14.—(INS): Judge O'Connor, who presided at the recent trial resulting in Chaplin's acquittal on "white slave" charges, ordered the two indictments against the Beverly Hills justice dismissed.

**Charleston
News and Courier
15 April 1944
page 1**

Violence and Intimidation



- Voter suppression was not always limited to structural barriers such as laws and rules
- Individuals may lose their jobs simply for registering to vote
- Physical violence, including lynchings, were used to intimidate those into not registering to vote
- High profile events in Florida:
 - Ocoee Massacre: Black resident July Perry was beaten, shot, and lynched for attempting to cast a vote in 1920; a mob killed dozens more, and burned homes, churches, and businesses as a way of intimidating future black voters
 - Harry and Harriette Moore: civil rights leaders who worked to register black voters; they were assassinated when a bomb detonated under their home Christmas day of 1951

Voter Turnout

How do you encourage individuals to engage in their civic obligation?



Get Out the Vote Campaigns



**GET
OUT
THE
VOTE**

- Social movements in modern times have attempted to increase voter turnout
- Nonpartisan organizations will provide information and encourage voters on how to register to vote as well as vote election day; partisan organizations will do the same, but may target demographic groups they believe will be more likely to vote for their party
- Methods used to encourage registration and voting include:
 - Direct mail
 - TV/internet ads
 - Volunteers going door-to-door or approaching individuals in a public area
 - Phone calls
 - Offering transportation to and from polling places

Sources

U.S. Constitution: [Constitution Pg1of4 AC.jpg](#)

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July Perry, Ocoee Massacre: [occoee-july-perry-photo-560px.jpg](#)

Voter Expansion: [images](#)

15th Amendment: [voter-registration.jpg](#)

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[19th Amendment](#) from the National Archives

Voter Turnout: [composite-social-graphics-design-presidential-election-poster-competition-get-out-the-vote_dezeen_soc_0.jpg](#)

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