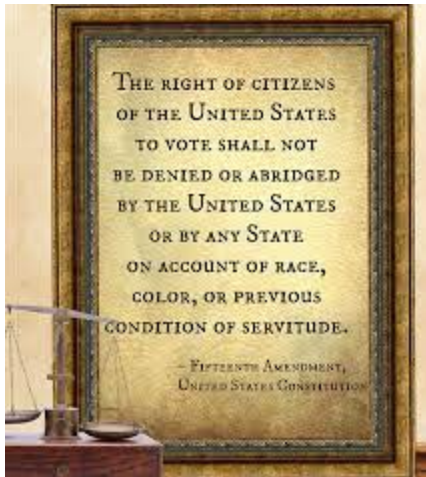


# Voting Resources

## BACKGROUND/ CONTEXT

The right to vote in the United States has grown over time. At first only a small group of white men could vote. Before the Civil War the right to vote was expanded to almost all white men. The Civil War brought the 13th amendment, which ended slavery, the 14th Amendment, which guaranteed equal rights, and the 15th Amendment, which guaranteed the right to vote for all men.



Despite these rights, state and local governments in the South passed "Jim Crow" laws that pretty much made it impossible for African Americans to vote. Laws also restricted access for other races. In 1920, the 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote. As a result of the Civil Rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s, the right to vote was finally guaranteed for all Americans through the Voting Rights Act of 1965.



Since then, many states have still tried to restrict access to voting through laws. Most of these laws target racial minorities. In 2013, the US Supreme Court put limits on the 1965 Voting Rights Act. In the last five years, some states have picked up their attempts to limit voting while other states have expanded access. Congress right now is considering an update to the 1965 Voting Rights Act.



## VOCABULARY

**Suffrage**--The right to vote

**Franchise**--The right to vote

**Disenfranchise**--take away the right to vote

**Disenfranchised**--not having the right to vote

**Gerrymandering**-- Efforts by political parties to draw voting districts in a way to help their own party. These efforts have often targeted racial minorities.

## RESOURCES

[The Fifteenth Amendment](#) from National Geographic

[We Want to Vote: Battle for the Ballots](#) from National Geographic Kids

[Voting Laws Roundup: May 2021](#) from Brennan Center for Justice

[The House Has Passed a Bill to Restore the Voting Rights Act](#) from NPR

[A Brief History of Latino Voting Rights Since the 1960s](#) from Remezcla.org

[Voting Rights](#) from MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund)

[Fifty Years of the Voting Rights Act: An Asian American Perspective](#) from AAJA (Asian Americans Advancing Justice)