

History of Voting in the United States

- 1776 White men with property have the right to vote, but Catholics, Jews, Quakers, and others are barred from voting.
- 1787 Constitution gave State the power to set voting mandates, most were still favorable to white males who owned property.
- 1830 Many states had dropped religion and property ownership as requirements for voting. Political parties were beginning to develop with such a large percentage of the population at the polls.
- 1868 The Fourteenth Amendment recognizes African Americans as citizens, giving them the right to vote. However, state officials continue attempts to deny this right.
- 1870 The Fifteenth Amendment recognizes freed slaves and other African American men the equal right to vote. It prohibited any state or local government from denying that right
- 1887 Congress passes the Dawes General Allotment Act that grants citizenship only to those Native Americans who give up their tribal affiliations.
- 1913 Voting power is expanded with the Seventeenth Amendment, calling for the popular elections of US Senators.
- 1920 The Nineteenth Amendment, adopted by Congress on June 4, 1919 is ratified by the states and becomes national law, giving women the right to vote.
- 1924 The Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 declares all non-citizen Native Americans born within the United States to be citizens, giving them the right to vote.
- 1940 Congress recognizes Native Americans as citizens. It was not until 1947 that all states granted them the right to vote.
- 1943 The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 is repealed, giving Chinese immigrants the right to citizenship and the right to vote.
- 1964 Congress ratifies the Twenty-fourth Amendment, outlawing the poll tax as a precondition for voting in federal elections. Two years later, the U.S. Supreme Court expands the ban, ruling that a poll tax violates the Fourteenth Amendment.
- 1965 President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act banning literacy tests, poll taxes and other obstacles designed to keep people from voting.
- 1971 The Twenty-sixth Amendment gives 18-year olds the right to vote.

- 1975 Congress expands the Voting Rights Act's definition of "test or device" to include English-only elections. This results in language assistance for citizens who have limited English proficiency.
- 1982 The Voting Rights Act Amendments that extend the right to vote guarantees given in the 1965 legislation. Further provisions for Americans with disabilities, voters not able to read and write, and those not fluent in English were added to insure their freedoms.
- 1990 Congress passes Americans with Disabilities Act that requires election workers and polling sites provide services to ensure people with disabilities can vote.
- 1993 National Voter Registration Act (Motor Voter) makes registration more uniform and accessible.
- 2006 The Voting Rights Act Amendments of 2006