

# Voting Rights Timeline

**1789** Ratification of the U.S. Constitution; first elections held

**1807** Women lose the right to vote in all states

**1830** Most states have abolished property and religious voting tests

**1838** Kentucky reintroduces women's suffrage for widows

**1855** Blacks can vote in only 5 states

**1870** 15th Amendment enfranchises black males

**1876** Black voters in the South denied participation

**1889** Wyoming allows women full voting rights

**1915** Grandfather Clause used to disenfranchise black males declared unconstitutional

**1920** 19th Amendment gives women the right to vote

**1924** Indian Citizenship Act provided for suffrage for Native Americans

**1944** "White Primary" declared unconstitutional

**1961** 23rd Amendment gives vote to citizens of Washington, DC

**1962** New Mexico was the last state to extend the right to vote to Native Americans

**1964** 24th Amendment abolishes the poll tax for federal elections

**1965** Voting Rights Act outlaws literacy tests and sends federal registrars to the South

**1971** 26th Amendment gives 18-20-year-olds the right to vote

**1975** Amended Voting Rights Act enables poor speakers of English to participate in the political process

**1993** National Voter Registration Act makes registration more uniform and accessible ("Motor Voter")