Chronology of Voting Rights Policies and Practices

**1789** The [Constitution of the United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_the_United_States) grants the [states](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._state) the power to set voting requirements. Generally, states limited this right to property-owning or tax-paying white males (about 6% of the population).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-1)

* some states allowed also Black males to vote, and
* New Jersey also included unmarried and widowed women, regardless of color.
* Since married women were not allowed to own property, they could not meet the [property qualifications](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Property_qualification).[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-Klinghoffer-2)
* [Georgia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgia_%28U.S._state%29) removes property requirement for voting.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-FOOTNOTEEngermanSokoloff200535-3)
* In some states, the property owner had to be a Christian

**1790** The [Naturalization Act of 1790](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naturalization_Act_of_1790) allows free white persons born outside of the United States to

become citizens. However, due to the Constitution granting the states the power to set voting requirements, this Act (and its successor [Naturalization Act of 795](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naturalization_Act_of_1795)) did not automatically grant the right to vote.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-4)

**1791** [Vermont](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vermont) is admitted as a new state, giving the vote to men regardless of color or property

ownership.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-FOOTNOTEEngermanSokoloff200528,_35-5)

**1792**

* [New Hampshire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Hampshire) removes property ownership as requirement to vote.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-FOOTNOTEEngermanSokoloff200511-12-6)
* [Kentucky](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kentucky) is admitted as a new state, giving the vote to free men regardless of color or property ownership. However, most Blacks in Kentucky may not vote because they are enslaved and after a short time, the vote is taken away also from free Blacks.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-FOOTNOTEEngermanSokoloff200528,_35-5)
* [Delaware](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delaware) removes property ownership as requirement to vote, continues to impose need to pay taxes to vote.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-FOOTNOTEEngermanSokoloff200535-3)

**1798** Georgia removes tax requirement for voting.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-FOOTNOTEEngermanSokoloff200535-3)

**1807** Voting rights are taken away from free black males and from all women [in New Jersey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_New_Jersey_State_Constitution#Vote_Rescinded_for_Women.2C_non-Whites).[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-Klinghoffer-2)

**1820s** In the [1820 election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1820_United_States_presidential_election), there were 108,359 ballots cast. Most older states with property restrictions dropped them by the mid-1820s, except for [Rhode Island](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhode_Island), [Virginia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginia) and [North Carolina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Carolina). No new states had property qualifications although three had adopted tax-paying qualifications – [Ohio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohio), [Louisiana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisiana), and [Mississippi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mississippi), of which only in Louisiana were these significant and long lasting.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-FOOTNOTEEngermanSokoloff20058-9-7)

**1821** In 1821 the state of [New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_%28state%29) held a [constitutional convention](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_convention_%28political_meeting%29) which removed property qualifications for white male voters, but introduced for "[persons of colour](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Person_of_color)" a new requirement to own $250 worth of property, "over and above all debts," in order to vote. White male voters were instead required to pay a tax, but this rule was abolished in an amendment of 1826. Requirements for persons of color were not affected by this amendment.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-8) Due to the state's policy of gradual emancipation, slavery persisted until 1827, but until then the proportion of African Americans who were [free](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_blacks) (and thus potential voters) steadily increased. [Native Americans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States) still controlled large territories in [Upstate New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upstate_New_York), and though typically excluded from citizenship altogether, the property requirement applied to any voter who was not white.

**1828**

* The [1828 presidential election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1828_United_States_presidential_election) was the first in which non-property-holding white males could vote in the vast majority of states. By the end of the 1820s, attitudes and state laws had shifted in favor of universal white male suffrage.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-FOOTNOTEEngermanSokoloff200514-9)
* [Maryland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maryland) passes a law to allow [Jews](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jews) to vote.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-Bichefsky-10) Maryland was the last state to remove religious restrictions for voting.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-AlJazeera-11)

**1830s**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States&action=edit&section=7)]

**1838** Voting rights are taken away from free black males [in Pennsylvania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1838_Pennsylvania_Loss_of_Voting_Rights_for_African_American_Men).[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-12)

* Kentucky women are allowed to vote in school elections.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:12-13)

**1840** Voter turnout soared during the 1830s, reaching about 80% of adult white male population

in the [1840 presidential election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1840_United_States_presidential_election).[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-14)

**1841** The [Dorr Rebellion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorr_Rebellion) takes place in [Rhode Island](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhode_Island) because men who did not own land could not vote.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:0-15)

**1843** Rhode Island drafts a new constitution giving any free man the right to vote.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:0-15)

**1848** [Mexicans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexicans) living in US territories are declared citizens in the [Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Guadalupe_Hidalgo), but are often discouraged from voting.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-AlJazeera-11)

**1856** The last state to abolish property qualification was [North Carolina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Carolina) in 1856.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-AlJazeera-11)

**1860** Tax-paying qualifications remained in five states in 1860 – Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Delaware and North Carolina. They survived in Pennsylvania and Rhode Island until the 20th century.[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-FOOTNOTEEngermanSokoloff200516,_35-16) In addition, many poor whites were later disenfranchised.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:2-17)[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:1-18)

**1866** [Wisconsin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wisconsin) gives African American men the right to vote after [Ezekiel Gillespie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ezekiel_Gillespie) fights for his right to vote.[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-19)

**1868** Citizenship is guaranteed to all male persons born or naturalized in the United States by the [Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fourteenth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution), setting the stage for future expansions to voting rights.

**1869 Women** in [Wyoming](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wyoming) get equal suffrage rights.[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-suffragist-20)

**1870** The [Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fifteenth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) prevents states from denying the right to vote on grounds of "race, color, or previous condition of servitude".

* + [Disfranchisement after Reconstruction era](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disfranchisement_after_Reconstruction_era) began soon after. Former [Confederate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confederate_States_of_America) states passed [Jim Crow laws](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim_Crow_laws) and amendments to effectively [disfranchise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disfranchise) [African-American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_Americans) and poor white voters through [**poll taxes**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poll_tax_%28United_States%29)**,**[**literacy tests**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Literacy_tests)**,**[**grandfather clauses**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grandfather_clauses) and other restrictions, applied in a discriminatory manner.
	+ During this period, the [Supreme Court](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_the_United_States) generally upheld state efforts to discriminate against racial minorities; only later in the 20th century were these laws ruled unconstitutional. Black males in the Northern states could vote, but the majority of African Americans lived in the South.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:2-17)[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:1-18)
* Women in [Utah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utah) get the right to vote.[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-rochester-21)

**1875** [*Minor v. Happersett*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minor_v._Happersett) goes to the Supreme Court, where it is decided that suffrage is not a right of citizenship and women do not necessarily have the right to vote.[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-22)

**1876**

* [Native Americans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States) are ruled non-citizens and ineligible to vote by the [Supreme Court of the United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_the_United_States).[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-AlJazeera-11)
* [Virginia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginia) amends their state constitution to include paying a [poll tax](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poll_taxes_in_the_United_States) as a requirement to vote.[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:11-23)

**1882** Chinese-Americans lose the right to vote and become citizens through the [Chinese Exclusion Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_Exclusion_Act).[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-AlJazeera-11)

**1883** Women in [Washington Territory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Territory) earn the right to vote.[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:7-24)

**1887**

* Citizenship is granted to [Native Americans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States) who are willing to disassociate themselves from their [tribe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tribal_sovereignty_in_the_United_States) by the [Dawes Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dawes_Act), making those males technically eligible to vote.
* Women in Washington lose the right to vote.[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:7-24)
* Women in Utah lose the right to vote under the [Edmunds–Tucker Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edmunds%E2%80%93Tucker_Act).[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-lizlibrary-25)
* Kansas women earn the right to vote in municipal elections.[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-suffragist-20)
* Arizona, Montana, New Jersey, North Dakota, and South Dakota grant partial suffrage to women.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:12-13)

**1890** Native Americans can apply for citizenship through the [Indian Naturalization Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Indian_Naturalization_Act_of_1890&action=edit&redlink=1).[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:4-26)

**1893** [Colorado](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colorado) passes full women's suffrage.[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-suffragist-20)

**1896**

* Women in Utah regain their right to vote.[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-27)[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-lizlibrary-25)
* [Grandfather clauses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grandfather_clause) are enacted in Louisiana in order to disenfranchise Black voters.[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:8-28)
* Women's suffrage is won in [Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho).[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-lizlibrary-25)

**1899** The right to vote in the [territory of Hawaii](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territory_of_Hawaii) is restricted to English and [Hawaiian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawaiian_language) speaking men and the territory is not allowed to make its own suffrage legislation.[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-FOOTNOTEHarper1922715-716-29)

**1901** Alabama enacts a cumulative poll tax in their state constitution. This means that all taxes that should have been paid since an eligible voter turned 21 must be paid before voting.[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:10-30)

**1910** Washington state restores women's right to vote through the state constitution.[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:7-24)

**1911** [California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_suffrage_in_California) women earn the right to vote.[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-lizlibrary-25)

**1912** Women in [Arizona](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_suffrage_in_Arizona),  Kansas and Oregon earn the right to vote.[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-lizlibrary-25)

**1913**

* Direct election of [Senators](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Senate), established by the [Seventeenth Amendment to the United States Constitution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seventeenth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution), gave voters rather than state legislatures the right to elect senators.[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-autogenerated1-31)
* White and African American women in the [Territory of Alaska](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_suffrage_in_Alaska) earn the right to vote.[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-32)
* Women in [Illinois](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_suffrage_in_Illinois) earn the right to vote in presidential elections.[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-lizlibrary-25)

**1914** [Nevada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_suffrage_in_Nevada) and [Montana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_suffrage_in_Montana) women earn the right to vote.[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-suffragist-20)

**1917**

* [Women in Arkansas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_suffrage_in_Arkansas) earn the right to vote in primary elections.[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-suffragist-20)
* [Women in Rhode Island](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_suffrage_in_Rhode_Island) earn the right to vote in presidential elections.[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-lizlibrary-25)
* Women in New York, Oklahoma, and South Dakota earn equal suffrage through their state constitutions.[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-lizlibrary-25)

**1918** [Women in Texas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_suffrage_in_Texas) earn the right to vote in primary elections.[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:19-33)

**1920** Women are guaranteed the [right to vote](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_suffrage) by the [Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nineteenth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution). **In practice, the same restrictions that hindered the ability of non-white men to vote now also applied to non-white women.**

**1923** Texas passes a [white primary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_primary) law.[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:9-34)

**1924** All [Native Americans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States) are granted citizenship and the right to vote through the [Indian Citizenship Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Citizenship_Act), regardless of tribal affiliation. By this point, approximately two thirds of Native Americans were already citizens.[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-35)[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-36) Notwithstanding, some western states continued to bar Native Americans from voting until 1948.[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-cambridge.org-37)

**1925** Alaska passes a literacy test designed to disenfranchise [Alaska Native](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaska_Natives) voters.[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-FOOTNOTECole1992433-38)

**1926** Georgia passes a cumulative poll tax rule.[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:10-30)

**1927** [*Nixon v. Herndon*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nixon_v._Herndon) is heard by the Supreme Court, which rules that white primary laws are unconstitutional.[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:9-34)

**1932** [*Nixon v. Condon*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nixon_v._Condon) is heard by the Supreme Court which strikes down a Texas law to allow political parties to choose who can vote in their primary elections.[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:9-34)

**1933** Poll taxes are abolished in [Pennsylvania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pennsylvania).[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:10-30)

**1935** [*Grovey v. Townsend*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grovey_v._Townsend) decides that the Democratic Party, as private organization, can determine who is allowed to join and therefore vote in the primaries.[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:9-34)

**1937** [*Breedlove v. Suttles*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breedlove_v._Suttles) was heard by the Supreme Court which decides that Georgia is allowed to impose a poll tax.[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:10-30)

**1943** [Chinese immigrants](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_Americans) are given the right to citizenship and the right to vote by the [Magnuson Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnuson_Act).[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:22-39)

**1944** The decision in *Grovey v. Townsend* is overturned by the case, [*Smith v. Allwright*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smith_v._Allwright) heard before the Supreme Court. It is decided that primary elections are an "integral component of the electoral process" and discrimination in participation in the primaries was prohibited.[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:9-34)

**1948** [Arizona](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arizona) and [New Mexico](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Mexico) are among the last states to extend full voting rights to Native Americans, which had been opposed by some western states in contravention of the [Indian Citizenship Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Citizenship_Act) of 1924.[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-cambridge.org-37)[[40]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-40)

**1951** [*Butler v. Thompson*](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Butler_v._Thompson&action=edit&redlink=1) is heard by the Supreme Court which rules that poll taxes are settled law that the state of Virginia is allowed to impose.[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:10-30)

**1952** All Americans with Asian ancestry are allowed to vote through the [McCarran Walter Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McCarran_Walter_Act).[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-AlJazeera-11)

**1954** Native Americans living on reservations earn the right to vote in [Maine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maine).[[41]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-41)[[42]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-42)

**1959** Alaska adopts a more lenient literacy test.[[43]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-FOOTNOTEChristen201998-43)

**1961** Residents of [Washington, D.C.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington%2C_D.C.) are granted the right to vote in U.S. Presidential Elections by the [Twenty-third Amendment to the United States Constitution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twenty-third_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution).[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-AlJazeera-11)

**1962-1964**

* A historic turning point arrived after the [U.S. Supreme Court](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Supreme_Court) under [Chief Justice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chief_Justice_of_the_United_States) [Earl Warren](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earl_Warren) made a series of landmark decisions which helped establish the nationwide "[one man, one vote](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_man%2C_one_vote)" [electoral system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Electoral_College) in the United States.
	+ In March 1962, the [Warren Court](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warren_Court) ruled in [*Baker v. Carr*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baker_v._Carr)*(1962)* that [redistricting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Redistricting) qualifies as a [justiciable](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justiciability) question, thus enabling federal courts to hear redistricting cases.[[44]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-44)
	+ In February 1964, the Warren Court ruled in *[Wesberry v. Sanders](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wesberry_v._Sanders%22%20%5Co%20%22Wesberry%20v.%20Sanders) (1964)* that districts in the [United States House of Representatives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives) must be approximately equal in population.[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-45)
	+ In June 1964, the Warren Court ruled in [*Reynolds v. Sims*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reynolds_v._Sims) (1964) that each chamber of a [bicameral](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bicameralism) [state legislature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_legislature_%28United_States%29) must have electoral districts roughly equal in population.[[46]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-46)[[47]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-47)[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-48)

**1964** [Poll Tax](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poll_taxes_in_the_United_States) payment prohibited from being used as a condition for voting in federal elections by the [Twenty-fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twenty-fourth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution).[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:10-30)

**1965**

* **Protection of voter registration and voting for racial minorities, later applied to language minorities, is established by the**[**Voting Rights Act of 1965**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voting_Rights_Act_of_1965)**.**[**[11]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-AlJazeera-11)**This has also been applied to correcting discriminatory election systems and districting.**
* In [*Harman v. Forssenius*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harman_v._Forssenius) the Supreme Court ruled that poll taxes or "equivalent or milder substitutes" cannot be imposed on voters.[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:10-30)

**1966** Tax payment and wealth requirements for voting in state elections are prohibited by the Supreme Court in [*Harper v. Virginia Board of Elections*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harper_v._Virginia_Board_of_Elections).[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:11-23)

**1970**

* [Alaska](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaska) ends the use of literacy tests.[[43]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-FOOTNOTEChristen201998-43)
* Native Americans who live on reservations in [Colorado](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colorado) are first allowed to vote in the state.[[49]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-49)

**1971** Adults aged 18 through 21 are granted the right to vote by the [Twenty-sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twenty-sixth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution). This was enacted in response to [Vietnam War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War) protests, which argued that soldiers who were old enough to fight for their country should be granted the right to vote.[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-autogenerated1-31)[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-50)[[51]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-HronikaBelgrade-51)

**1972** Requirement that a person reside in a jurisdiction for an extended period is prohibited by the Supreme Court in [*Dunn v. Blumstein*](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Dunn_v._Blumstein&action=edit&redlink=1), [405](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_States_Supreme_Court_cases%2C_volume_405) [U.S.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Reports) [330](https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/405/330/) (1972).[[52]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-52)[[53]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-Pascoe_1997-53)

**1973** Washington, D.C. local elections, such as [Mayor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mayor_of_the_District_of_Columbia) and [Councilmen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_of_the_District_of_Columbia), restored after a 100-year gap in [Georgetown](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgetown_%28Washington%2C_D.C.%29), and a 190-year gap in the wider city, ending Congress's policy of local election disfranchisement started in 1801 in this former portion of Maryland—see: [D.C. Home rule](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/D.C._Home_rule).

**1974**

* A challenge to [felony disenfranchisement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felony_disenfranchisement_in_the_United_States), [*Richardson v. Ramirez*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richardson_v._Ramirez) is filed, though the Supreme Court upholds California's policies.[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:5-54)
* [*O'Brien v. Skinner*](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=O%27Brien_v._Skinner&action=edit&redlink=1) upholds the rights of some people who are [incarcerated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prison) to vote without interference from the government.[[55]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-55)

**1975** The Voting Rights Act is modified to provide voters information in [Native American languages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous_languages_of_the_Americas) and other non-English languages.[[56]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-FOOTNOTETuckerLandrethLynch2017336-56)[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-AlJazeera-11)

**1982** A 25-year extension of the VRA is signed by President [Ronald Reagan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ronald_Reagan).[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:8-28)

**1983** Texas repeals the lifelong prohibition against voters with felony convictions and institutes a five year waiting period after completing a sentence to vote.[[57]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:6-57)

**1985** Texas changes the five year waiting period to two years for people with felony convictions.[[57]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:6-57)

**1986** [United States Military and Uniformed Services](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Armed_Forces), [Merchant Marine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Merchant_Marine), other citizens overseas, living on bases in the United States, abroad, or aboard ship are granted the right to vote by the [Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uniformed_and_Overseas_Citizens_Absentee_Voting_Act).[[58]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-usdoj.gov-58)

**1993** The [National Voter Registration Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Voter_Registration_Act_of_1993) passes and is meant to make voter registration available in more locations.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-AlJazeera-11)

**1997** Texas ends the two year waiting period for people with felony convictions to restore voting rights.[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:5-54)

**1998** People in [Utah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utah) with a felony conviction are prohibited from voting while serving their sentence. People with a felony conviction may vote after release from prison, if they were convicted in Utah. If they were convicted out of state, their rights are not restored due to the wording of the law.[[57]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:6-57)

**2000**

* Voters in United States territories, including [American Samoa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Samoa), [Guam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guam), [Puerto Rico](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puerto_Rico), and the [United States Virgin Islands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Virgin_Islands) are **ruled ineligible to vote** in presidential elections.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-AlJazeera-11)
* Delaware ends lifetime disenfranchisement for people with felony convictions for most offenses but institutes a five year waiting period.[[57]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:6-57)

**2001**

* New Mexico ends lifetime disenfranchisement for people with a felony conviction.[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:5-54)
* Connecticut restores the rights of people serving felony probation.[[57]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:6-57)

**2005**

* Iowa restores the voting rights of felons who completed their prison sentences.[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:5-54)
* Nebraska ends lifetime disenfranchisement of people with felonies but adds a five-year waiting period.[[57]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:6-57)

**2006**

* The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was extended for the fourth time by President [George W. Bush](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_W._Bush), being the second extension of 25 years.[[59]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-59)
* Utah changes wording of their law and restores voting rights to all people who have completed their prison sentence for a felony.[[57]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:6-57)
* Rhode Island restores voting rights for people serving probation or parole for felonies.[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:5-54)

**2007** [Florida](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florida) restores voting rights for most non-violent people with felony convictions.[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:5-54)

**2009** Washington restores a person's right to vote if they have completed their sentences for a felony conviction.[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-felony-60)

**2010** Voting rights in New Jersey are restored to individuals serving probation and parole for felonies.[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:5-54)

**2011**

* Florida changes their felony voting rules; felons must wait five years after sentencing and apply for their right to vote again.[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:5-54)
* Iowa reverses their rule allowing felons who have completed their sentences to vote.[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:5-54)
* Texas passes one of the most restrictive [voter ID laws](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voter_Identification_laws) in the country, but it is blocked by the courts.[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:8-28)

**2013**

* Supreme Court ruled in the 5–4 [*Shelby County v. Holder*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shelby_County_v._Holder) decision that Section 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act is unconstitutional. Section 4(b) stated that if states or local governments want to change their voting laws, they must appeal to the Attorney General.[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-61)
* Delaware waives the five-year waiting period for voters with a felony conviction.[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-felony-60)

**2016**

* California allows prisoners in county jail to vote.[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-felony-60)
* [Maryland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maryland) restores voting rights to felons after they have served their term in prison.[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-felony-60)

**2017**

* Alabama publishes a list of crimes that can lead to disqualification of the right to vote.[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-felony-60)
* Wyoming restores the voting rights of non-violent felons.[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-felony-60)

**2018**

* A law passes in [North Dakota](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Dakota) prevents Native Americans without residential addresses from voting.[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:4-26)
* Florida voting rights for people with a felony conviction is restored with some additional requirements needed in some cases.[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-felony-60)
* People with a felony conviction in [Louisiana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisiana) who have not been incarcerated for five years (inclusive of probation or parole) are able to vote.[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-:5-54)
* New York allows parolees to vote.[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-felony-60)

**2019**

* People convicted of a felony may vote in Nevada after release from prison.[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-felony-60)
* Citizens on parole may vote in Colorado.[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-felony-60)
* People convicted of a felony may vote in Oklahoma after serving their full sentence, including parole and other types of probation.[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-felony-60)

**2020**

* California restores voting rights to citizens serving [parole](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parole).[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-felony-60)
* Washington, D.C. passes a law to allow incarcerated felons to vote.[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-felony-60)
* People with a felony conviction have their right to vote in Iowa restored with some restrictions and each potential voter must have completed their sentence.[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-felony-60)
* People with a felony conviction in New Jersey can vote after release from prison; citizens on parole or probation can also vote.[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_voting_rights_in_the_United_States#cite_note-felony-60)