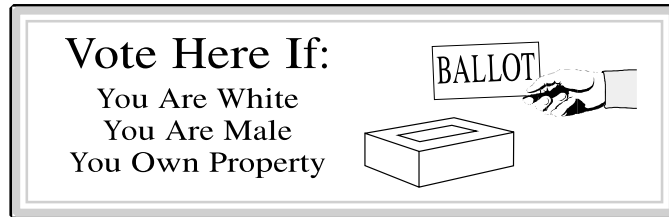


DEVELOPMENT OF VOTING RIGHTS

1789 The Constitution allows states to establish voting requirements for federal elections; only white male property owners vote.



1810 Last religious test for the right to vote is administered.

1870 The 15th Amendment is passed, preventing any citizen from being denied the right to vote on the basis of race or color. Despite this amendment, many blacks are prevented from voting through the use of literacy tests, poll taxes, and other barriers.

1920 The 19th Amendment is ratified, giving women the vote.



1961 The 23rd Amendment allows voters from the District of Columbia to vote in the presidential election.

1964 The 24th Amendment eliminates the poll tax and any other tax as a condition for voting in any federal election.

1965 The Voting Rights Act finally guarantees racial equality in voting. No state may use literacy as a basis for any voting requirement. No new election laws can go into effect in any states known for voting violations (Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Virginia and 40 counties in North Carolina) unless given pre-clearance by the Justice Department.

1970 Amendments extend the Voting Rights Act for another five years.

1971 The 26th Amendment provides that no state can set an age limit above 18 at which a person can vote.

1975 Five-year ban on literacy requirements becomes permanent.

1982 Amendment extends the Voting Rights Act another 25 years.

2006 Amendment extends the Voting Rights Act another 25 years.

2013 In *Shelby County v. Holder*, the Supreme Court ruled parts of the Voting Right Act unconstitutional.