

Name:

Period:

## So You Think You Can Vote America's Voting Rights

1. The Early Years: Only adult white males who **owned land** (usually **50** acres) could vote because people believed that land owners were the only ones **responsible** enough to make **political decisions**.
2. Who was left out?  
**Poor white men, women, American Indians and African Americans (Free & slaves)**
3. Independence and the Vote: The Framers gave **each state** the right to decide what its own voting rights would be.
4. New York dropped the property requirement to vote in **1821**. Rhode Island waited all the way until **1880!!**
5. In what year was the **15th amendment** passed? **1870**
6. **The African-American Vote:** The 15th amendment said that former slaves could not be turned away from the polls due to what? **Color of their skin or the fact that they were slaves**
7. **The Women's Vote:** In what year did Wyoming give women the right to vote? **1867**
8. Women officially won the right to vote in **1920** with the passage of the **19th** amendment!
9. **The American Indian Vote:** American Indians were not considered citizens until **1924**. Before that, they were considered members of **their own tribal government**.
10. Which President signed the Indian **Citizenship Act** in 1924? **Calvin Coolidge** Why was this important for voting? **Citizenship meant you can vote**
11. **D.C. Voting Rights:** Residents of the District of Columbia (our nation's capital) did not have the right to vote until the **23rd** amendment was ratified in **1961**
12. Barriers to the African-American Vote: What were 3 barriers to African-Americans exercising their right to vote?
  - **Limited opportunities to register to vote**
  - **Arrests and beatings by police**
  - **Threats of violence toward voters and their families**

13. What were some examples of poll tests? **Guess correct number of cotton balls in a jar. Guess number of bubbles on a bar of soap.**
14. The literacy test was one type of poll test where voters were tested on their reading skills.
15. What did the Grandfather Clause state? **You can only vote if your grandfather votes**
16. What was the poll tax? **A payment to vote**
17. \$1.50 in 1932= how much money today? **About \$23**
18. Voting Laws Change: The 24<sup>th</sup> Amendment was added to the Constitution in 1964. It banned the use of poll taxes in elections.
19. The Voting Rights Act was signed by President Lyndon Johnson in 1965. What 3 things did it accomplish?
- **Protected the right to vote for all citizens**
  - **Forced the states to obey the constitution**
  - **Reinforced the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment**
20. **Changing the Voting Age:** The 26<sup>th</sup> amendment was passed in 1971. It changed the voting age to 18.
21. Which war prompted people to choose to change the voting age from 21 to 18? Why?  
**Vietnam War, "Old enough to fight, old enough to vote"**