# 10.1

# The History of Voting Rights



#### As a Young Political Scientist, I will be able to...

- Summarize the history of voting rights in the United States.
- Identify the main intention of the 15th Amendment, and describe the results of its lack of enforcement.
- Analyze the impact of political changes brought about by individuals with regard to the civil rights laws enacted in 1957, 1960, and 1964.
- Analyze the provisions and effects of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

### **Voting Rights**

Suffrage & Franchise both mean the right to vote.

It used to be that only white property owners could vote. Ben Franklin mocked this.

**Electorate-** Potential voting population. Who can vote today?

There are 5 struggles that voting rights faced.

## \*\*Struggle for Voting Rights 1. The end of religious qualifications & property ownership to vote 2. 15th Amendment allowed anyone of any race to vote. 3. The 19th Amendment allowed women the right to vote 4. The Civil Rights Acts of the 1960s enforced voting rights & eliminated "conditions" 5. The 26th Amendment set the voting age to 18

### The 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment

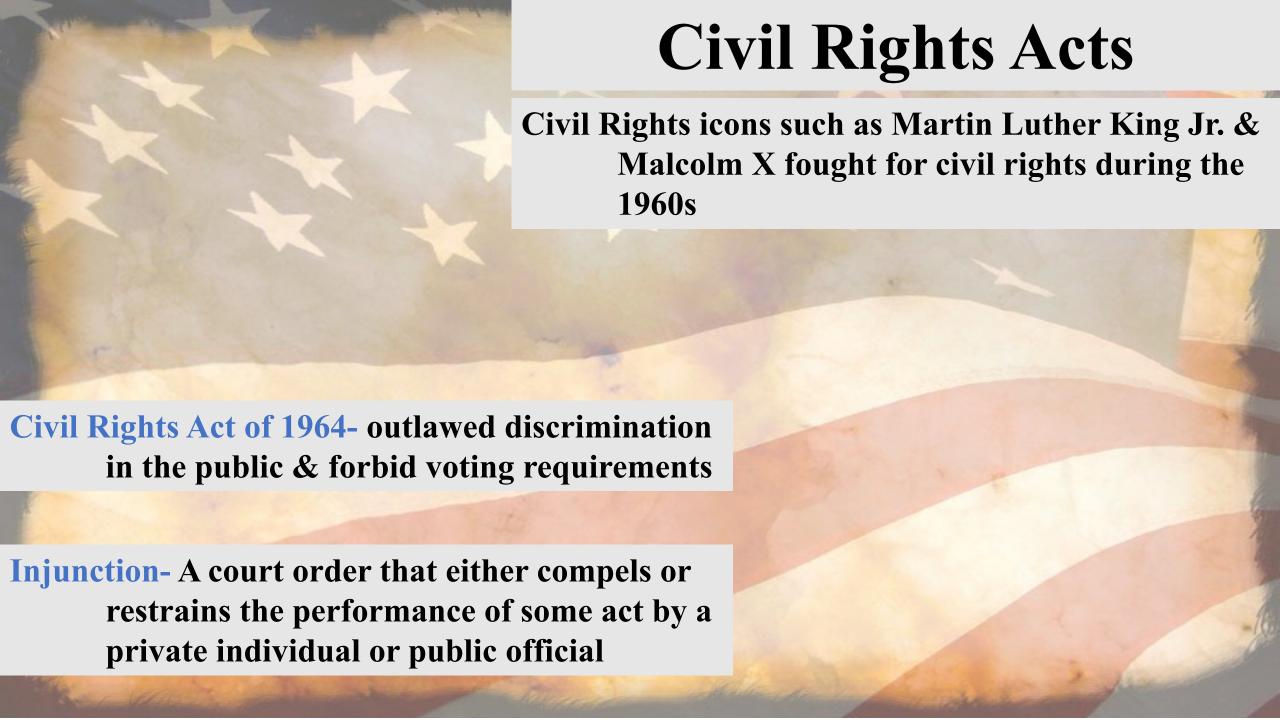
**Disenfranchised- Denied the right to vote** 

Poll Tax- Tax imposed by states that people had to pay to vote

The 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment allowed men to vote regardless of race, but it did not enforce it.

This caused White Supremacists to use laws & social pressures to block African Americans the right to vote

Gerrymandering- the practice of drawing electoral district lines to limit the voting strength of a particular group





Voting Rights Act of 1965 applied Civil Rights to all of the states.

The Act is not permanent & has to be extended, which it has multiple times

Preclearance- Dept of Justice has to approve any changes in election laws