

**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

The background of the entire slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in warm, painterly tones.

**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.

The background of the entire slide is a stylized, painterly representation of the United States flag. It features a field of white stars on a blue background in the upper left, and broad, wavy stripes of red and white across the rest of the image. The style is soft and artistic, with visible brushstrokes and a slightly blurred, historical feel.

# **\*\*Struggle for Voting Rights**

**1. The end of religious qualifications & property ownership to vote**

**2. 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment allowed anyone of any race to vote.**

**3. The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment allowed women the right to vote**

**4. The Civil Rights Acts of the 1960s enforced voting rights & eliminated “conditions”**

**5. The 26<sup>th</sup> 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

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# Civil Rights Acts

**Civil Rights icons such as Martin Luther King Jr. & Malcolm X fought for civil rights during the 1960s**

**Civil Rights Act of 1964-** outlawed discrimination in the public & forbid voting requirements

**Injunction-** A court order that either compels or restrains the performance of some act by a private individual or public official

# **Voting Rights of 1965-Now**

**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