

Vote Like Your Life Depends on It!

It Does!!!!

(This is not CRT)

This mid-term election is a test of where our democracy is headed. Important is an understatement. What I think many are not aware of is how EVERYONE got the opportunity to vote. In these midterms the electoral college (electoral college is used for the Presidential election) is not a factor this is every vote is a vote that counts. I was born without the right to vote. At 8 years old I am sure I did not really understand how important this law was in my life as a Black girl but make no mistake it was important. As a senior citizen I have made it my business to make sure my kids understand the importance it holds in their lives, and I am saddened that many are not passing this information down. I remember my daughter crying because she could not vote for President Obama his first term and waking me up early to vote for him on his second term as she was of age then. People sacrificed their lives for this right, which is not even law, and it can be taken away. Make no mistake that is the plan of some folk.....

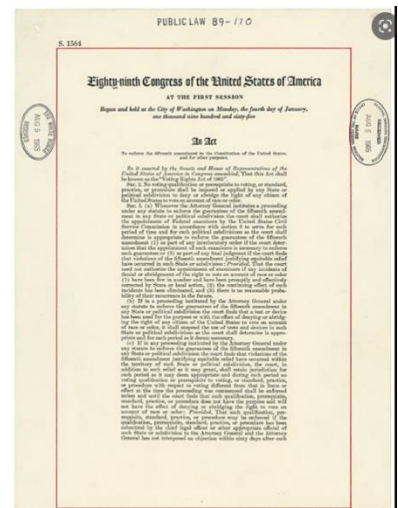


I remember my grandmother saying, I pray we have a Black President, but I am sure I will not be alive to see it. When President Obama was elected an elderly neighbor who was then in his 80's came outside the next morning and sat crying on his steps knowing he had lived long enough to see it. I thought about my grandmother who would have been about 148 years old at that time, she never got to see it, only one of her daughter's got to see it and her grandchildren and great children bore witness.

Understand that voting is an act and not a law and that means it can be changed and there are folk trying to do just that. Additionally, women got the right to vote in 1920. This did not include Black women. Make sure you vote and your family votes and know that like your life, you are responsible for your vote.

The Voting Right Act- History you should know

This act was signed into law on August 6, 1965, by President Lyndon Johnson. It outlawed the discriminatory voting practices adopted in many southern states after the Civil War, including literacy tests as a prerequisite to voting.



This “act to enforce the [fifteenth amendment](#) to the Constitution” was signed into law 95 years after the amendment was ratified. In those years, African Americans in the South faced tremendous obstacles to voting, including poll taxes, literacy tests, and other bureaucratic restrictions to deny them the right to vote. They also risked harassment, intimidation, economic reprisals, and physical violence when they tried to register or vote. As a result, African American voter registration was limited, along with political power.

In 1964, numerous peaceful demonstrations were organized by Civil Rights leaders, and the considerable violence they were met with brought renewed attention to the issue of voting rights. The murder of voting-rights activists in Mississippi and the attack by white state troopers on peaceful marchers in Selma, Alabama, gained national attention and persuaded President Johnson and Congress to initiate meaningful and effective national voting rights legislation. The combination of public revulsion to the violence and Johnson's political skills stimulated Congress to pass the voting rights bill on August 5, 1965.

The legislation, which President Johnson signed into law the next day, outlawed literacy tests and provided for the appointment of federal examiners (with the power to register qualified citizens to vote) in those jurisdictions that were "covered" according to a formula provided in the statute. In addition, Section 5 of the act required covered jurisdictions to obtain "preclearance" from either the District Court for the District of Columbia or the U.S. Attorney General for any new voting practices and procedures. Section 2, which closely followed the language of the 15th amendment, applied a nationwide prohibition of the denial or abridgment of the right to vote on account of race or color. The use of poll taxes in national elections had been abolished by the 24th amendment (1964) to the Constitution; the Voting Rights Act directed the Attorney General to challenge the use of poll taxes in state and local elections. In *Harper v. Virginia State Board of Elections*, 383 U.S. 663 (1966), the Supreme Court held Virginia's poll tax to be unconstitutional under the [14th amendment](#).

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was the most significant statutory change in the relationship between the federal and state governments around voting since the Reconstruction period following the Civil War; and it was immediately challenged in the courts. Between 1965 and 1969, the Supreme Court issued several key decisions upholding the constitutionality of Section 5 and affirming the broad range of voting practices for which preclearance was required. [See *South Carolina v. Katzenbach*, 383 U.S. 301, 327-28 (1966) and *Allen v. State Board of Elections*, 393 U.S. 544 (1969)] In 2013, the Court struck down a key provision of the act involving federal oversight of voting rules in nine states.

The Voting Rights Act had an immediate impact. By the end of 1965, a quarter of a million new Black voters had been registered, one-third by federal examiners. By the end of 1966, only four out of 13 southern states had fewer than 50 percent of African Americans registered to vote. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was readopted and strengthened in 1970, 1975, and 1982.

John Lewis Voting Right Bill

This bill was introduced in the House on August 17, 2021. It received 223 co-sponsors. The bill passed the House of Representatives on August 24, 2021 (219-212). All Democrats voted in favor of the legislation, and all Republicans voted against it. The bill provides the tools to address these discriminatory practices and seeks to protect all Americans' right to vote. The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act creates a new coverage formula that applies to all states and hinges on a finding of repeated voting rights violations in the preceding 25 years. Understand the act must be voted on continuously and so the issues will arise again. It needs to be law.



The John Lewis Freedom to Vote act has broad Key provisions include:

- Making Election Day a federal holiday so working Americans can more easily vote
- Creating a nationwide voter ID requirement
- Requiring 15 days of early voting and vote-by-mail to give voters more options and reduce lines at voting locations
- Ensuring every ballot has a paper trail, and every voter can track their mail-in-ballot
- Promoting and funding strong, state-run audits to protect democracy and election integrity
- Allowing same-day voter registration for American citizens with proper identification and making it a felony to lie about your identity

These items were removed from the act

Since the ruling, 15 states have passed laws that removed provisions such as online voting registration, early voting, "Souls to the Polls" Sunday voting, in which shuttle services take people to the polls directly after church,> same-day registration, and pre-registering people under the age of 18 to vote.

PROVISIONS OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

Originally, legislators hoped that within five years of its passage, the issues surrounding the 1965 Voting Rights Act would be resolved and there would be no further need for its enforcement-related provisions. They were wrong. Congress had to extend these provisions in 1970, 1975, 1982 and most recently in 2007, this time for 25 years.

Enforcement measures included:

- Requirements for certain jurisdictions with a history of disenfranchising voters to obtain approval or "preclearance" from the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. District Court in D.C. before they can make any changes to voting practices or procedures. They must prove that the proposed change does not deny or infringe on the right to vote on account of race or color.
- Requirements for certain jurisdictions to provide language assistance to voters in communities where there is a concentration of citizens who do not are not proficient in English to actively participate in the electoral process. This provision was added to the Voting Rights Act in 1975.
- Federal election examiners and observers for certain jurisdictions where there is evidence of attempts to intimidate minority voters at the polls.

For more information about Voting and your rights under this Act visit

- <https://naacp.org/find-resources/know-your-rights>
- <https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/voting-rights-act>
- <https://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/women-who-fought-for-the-vote-1>
- https://www.ourcommunitymedia.org/post/former-president-obama-urges-senate-to-pass-john-lewis-freedom-to-vote-act?gclid=CjwKCAjw-rOaBhA9EiwAUkLV4i3Q5xAakDajsi-Yb7RQQ9XOLDr0O6_oKlxg8r26-hQxftrNaP5DExoCpFUQAvD_BwE