

# VOTING RIGHTS ACT



Women's Right to Vote, a Timeline of obtaining  
Equality

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# MARCH 31, 1776

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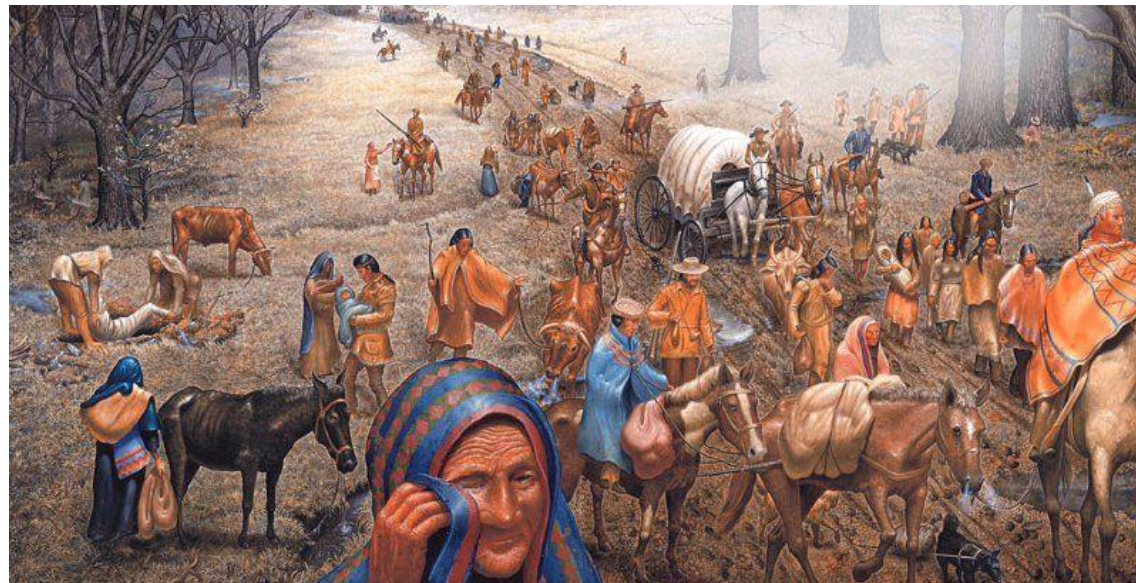
Abigail Adams writes to John Adams, founding father, upon talks of the constitution begging him to consider: “remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember, all men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.”



# 1830

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During the past 200 years, Native Americans have gone from being forced from their homes to becoming accepted as citizens and granted the right to vote starting in 1830, when President Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act, granting himself permission to grant lands west of the Mississippi to Native Americans in exchange for their Indian lands inside of state borders. This became the trail of tears



# JULY 19-20, 1848

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In the first women's rights convention. Sixty-eight women and 32 men (including [Frederick Douglass](#)) sign the Declaration of Sentiments.





# 1848

The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1868 gave black Americans citizenship, but not Native people.



# 1850

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- Chinese immigration to the US begins in response to poor economic conditions in China and the advent of the gold rush in the US. Immigrants often owed the cost of their passage to the US, and worked for any available wage in order to repay it and send funds home to their families.

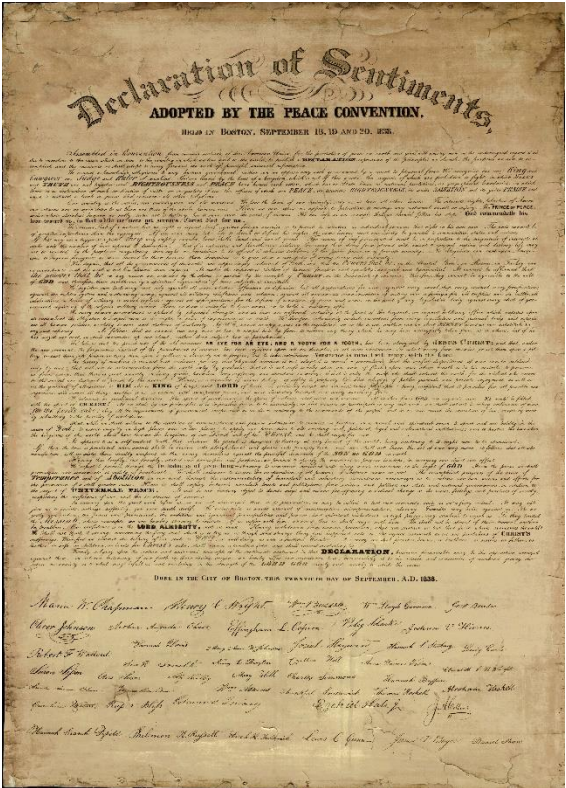
This led to between 1860-1885, (Inexpensive) Chinese and minority labor built the Transcontinental Railroad.

Leland Stanford, president of Central Pacific, former California governor and founder of Stanford University, [told Congress](#) in 1865, that the majority of the railroad labor force were Chinese. Without them,” he said, “it would be impossible to complete the western portion of this great national enterprise, within the time required by the Acts of Congress”



JANUARY 29, 1866

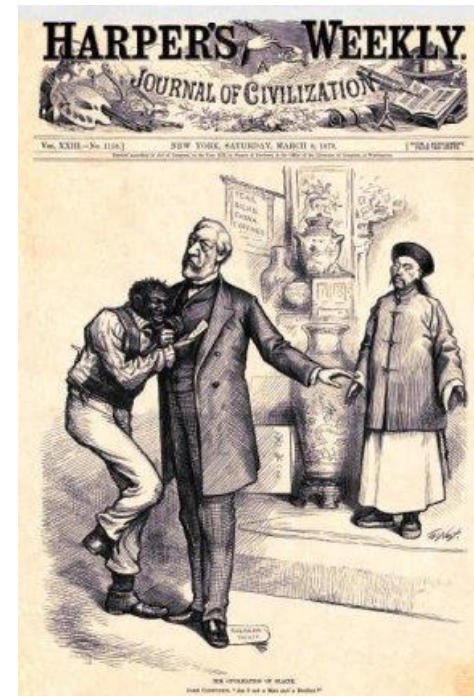
Petition for Universal Suffrage is the drive after the signing of Declaration of Sentiments. This was the first asking for an amendment in the constitution to prohibit states from disfranchising any citizens on the grounds of sex.



# 1868

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The Burlingame Treaty of 1868 formalized friendly Sino-American relations, opening up lucrative trade routes and ensuring a steady flow of inexpensive labor. Though US industry was delighted by this, the US workforce did not welcome the less expensive competition





# MAY 15, 1869

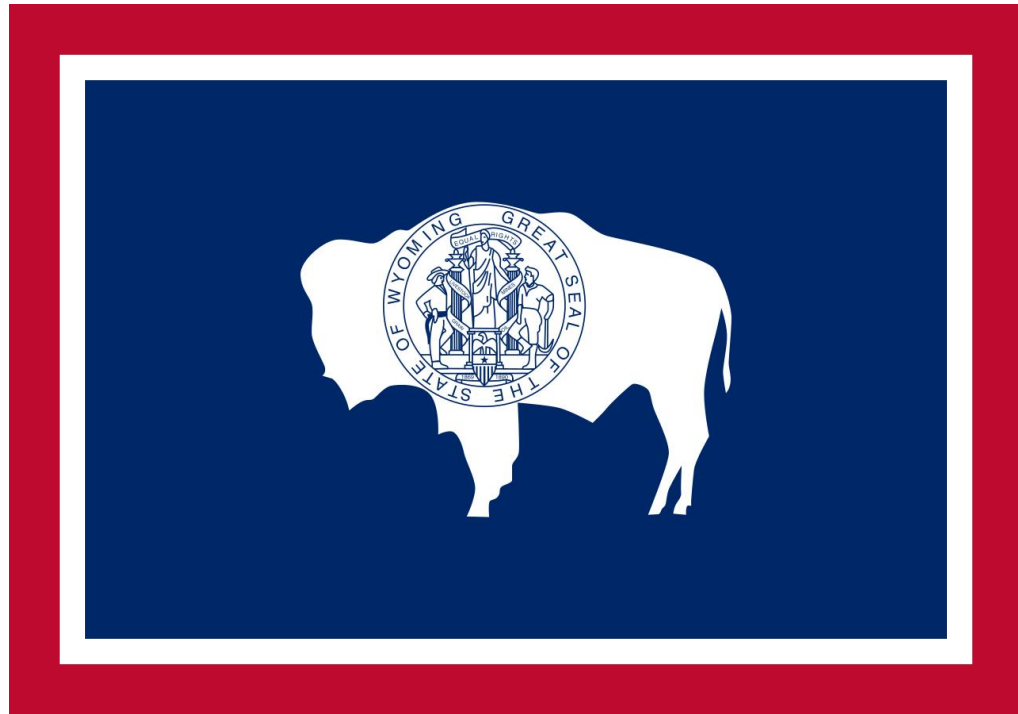
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Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton found the National Woman Suffrage Association, which coordinated the national suffrage movement. In 1890, the group teamed with the American Woman Suffrage Association to form the National American Woman Suffrage Association.



# DECEMBER 10, 1869

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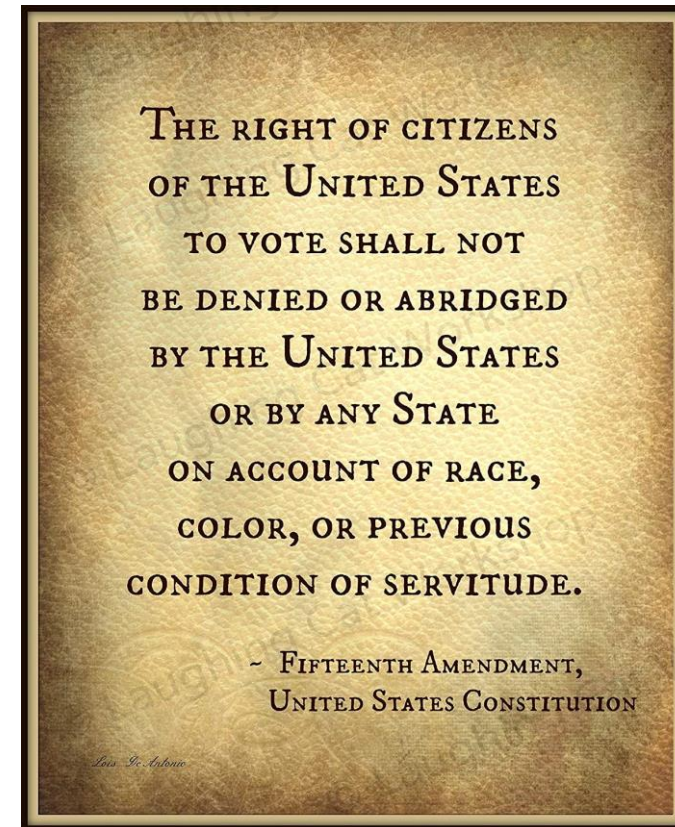
The legislature of the territory of Wyoming [passes](#) America's first woman suffrage law, granting women the right to vote and hold office. In 1890, [Wyoming](#) is the 44th state admitted to the Union and becomes the first state to allow women the right to vote.

# 1870

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Many government officials felt that Native Americans should be assimilated into America's mainstream culture before they became enfranchised. Although the Fifteenth Amendment, was passed in 1870 and granted all U.S. citizens the right to vote regardless of race, Native Americans still could not enjoy the rights granted by this amendment.

Economic depression leads to growing resentment of Chinese immigrants





# OCTOBER 24, 1871

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Chinese Massacre of 1871 – on 24 October, 500 men storm Los Angeles' Chinatown and hanged 17 to 21 (depending on eyewitness accounts) Chinese immigrants. Ten men were prosecuted, eight convicted of manslaughter, but the convictions were overturned on appeal.





# 1875 AND 1882

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The Page act of 1875 prohibited the entry of Chinese women, so as to discourage growth of the Chinese population within the US. Anti-miscegenation laws also on the books.

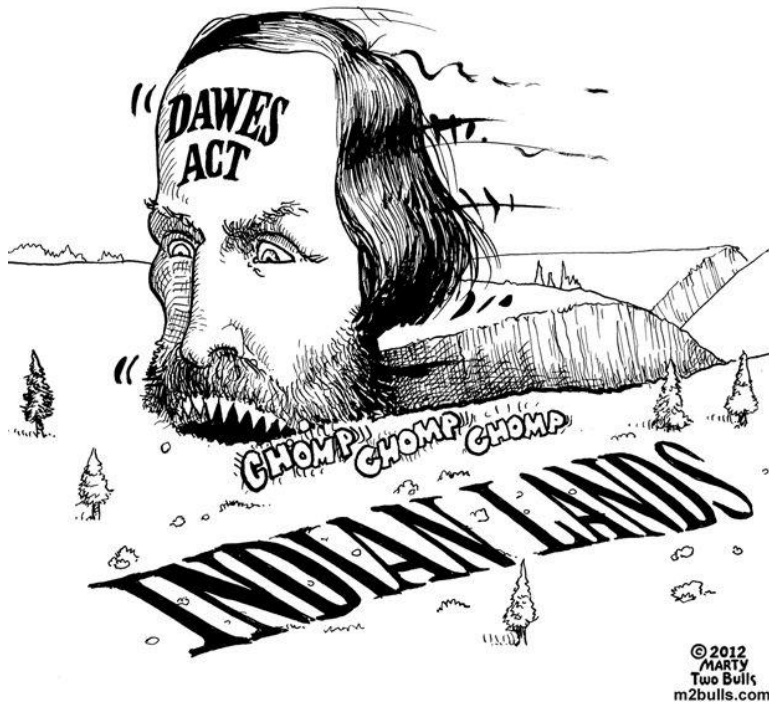
The Chinese Exclusion Act was signed into Federal Law by Chester A Arthur May 6, 1882, prohibiting all Chinese immigration, excepting diplomats, teachers, students, merchants, and travelers.



# 1887

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Dawes Act passed provided the dissolution of Native American tribes as legal entities and established U.S. funded Indian schools for Native American children.



# 1879

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U.S. Army Officer Richard Henry Pratt founded the first off-reservation boarding school in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Quote of the time was, “Kill the Indian in him and save the man.”

# 1890

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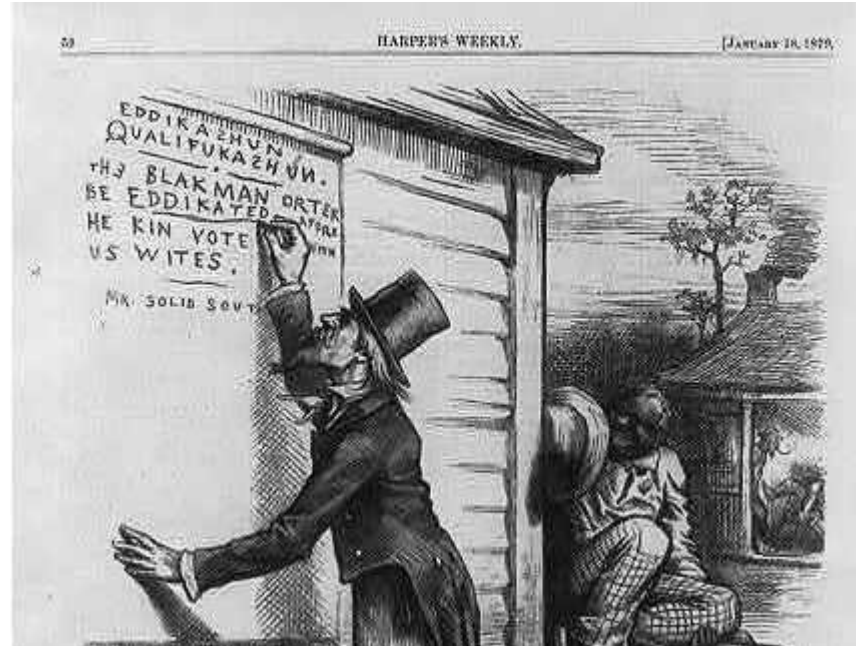
Snyder Act of 1924 admitted Native Americans born in the U.S. to full U.S. citizenship. Though the Fifteenth Amendment, passed in 1870, granted all U.S. citizens the right to vote regardless of race, it wasn't until the Snyder Act that Native Americans could enjoy the rights granted by this amendment.

MEMBERS OF THE ARAPAHO TRIBE PERFORM A GHOST DANCE CIRCA 1900. (NATIONAL ARCHIVES) ENACTED IN 1890, THE [INDIAN NATURALIZATION ACT](#) ALLOWS NATIVE AMERICANS TO APPLY FOR CITIZENSHIP



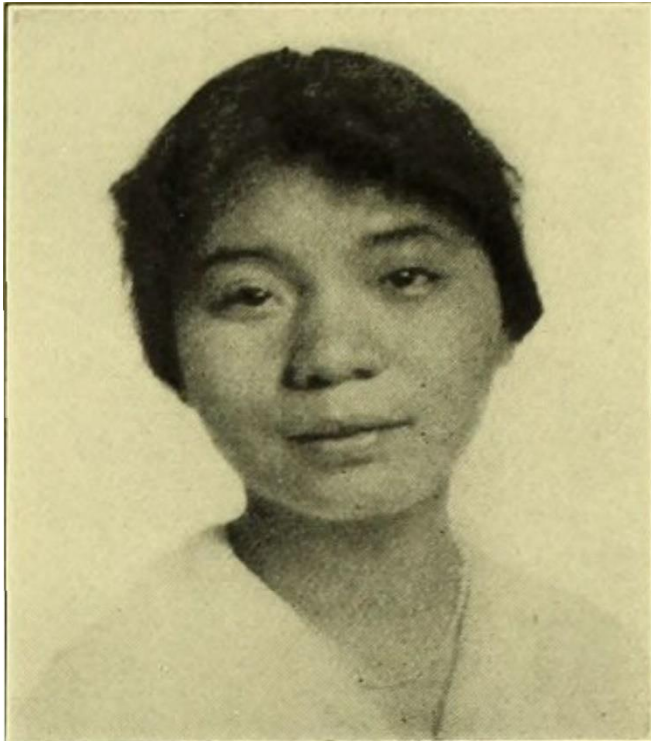
# 1896

- Louisiana passes “grandfather clauses” to keep former slaves and their descendants from voting
- As a result, the percentage of registered black voters drops from 44% to 4% four years later
- Mississippi, South Carolina, Alabama, and Virginia follow Louisiana’s lead by enacting their own grandfather clause



# 1911 AND 1912

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Mabel Lee

Shculze was the first Chinese-American woman to vote – in 1912 in California (Californians voted in 1911 for women's suffrage)

Dr. Lee led the New York City Suffragists' Parade in 1912 on horseback

# 1913

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- African-American women attended political conventions at their local churches where they planned strategies to gain the right to vote
- African-American women were often excluded from organizations and activities where they had to march separately from white women
- African-American reformers like Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth worked with the National American Woman Suffrage Association, but mainstream organizations did not address their challenges due to their race



# APRIL 2, 1917

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[Jeannette Rankin](#) of Montana, a longtime activist with the National Woman Suffrage Association, is sworn in as the first woman elected to Congress as a member of the [House of Representatives](#)



# AUGUST 18, 1920

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- Women were denied some of the basic rights enjoyed by male citizens

Ratification of the 19th Amendment to the [U.S. Constitution](#) is completed, declaring “the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.” It is nicknamed “The Susan B. Anthony Amendment” in honor of her work on behalf of women’s suffrage. (unfortunately, states still had the right to decide which women would be allowed to vote)

- A right known as the woman’s suffrage, ending almost a century of protest
- More than 8 million women across the U.S. voted in elections for the first time



# JUNE 2, 1924

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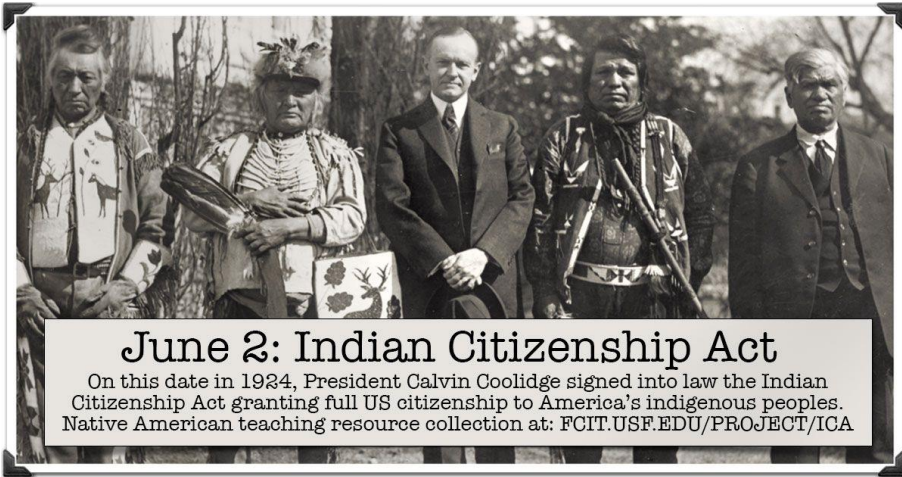
PRESIDENT CALVIN COOLIDGE SIGNS THE [INDIAN CITIZENSHIP ACT](#), which authorized the Secretary of the Interior to issue certificates of citizenship to Indians., 06/02/1924.

Through this act, Congress granted citizenship to any Native Americans born within the United States.

At the time many were still denied voting rights by individual state or local laws.

The Snyder Act of 1924 admitted Native Americans born in the U.S. to full U.S. citizenship.

However, many Native Americans were not considered citizens until 1928.



# 1940

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- Only 3% of eligible African-Americans in the South are registered to vote
- Jim Crow laws, like literacy tests and poll taxes, were meant to keep African-Americans from voting





# 1940S-1960S

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The Chicano movement was a civil rights movement that started by looking for restoration of land grants. The movement expanded to encompass Mexican farm worker's rights, enhanced education, voting rights and political rights.

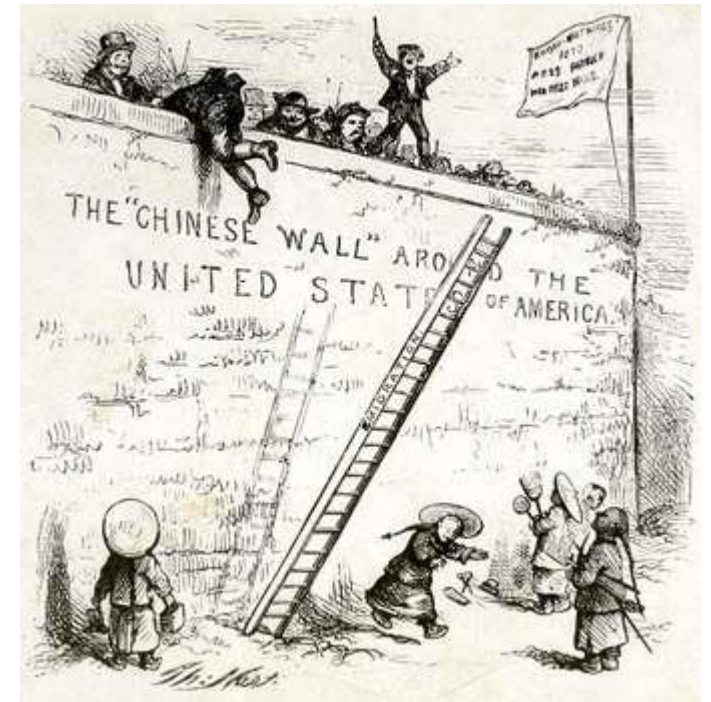




# 1943

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The Magnuson Act repealed the Chinese Exclusion Act, signed into law 17 December. It allowed for Chinese immigration to resume, and allowed for some Chinese immigrants already in the US to become naturalized citizens. The act was passed largely due to China's status as an official allied nation of the US during WW II. The act continued the ban against the ownership of property and businesses by ethnic Chinese.



# 1952

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The race restrictions of the 1790 Naturalization Law are repealed by the McCarran-Walter Act, giving first generation Japanese Americans, including women, citizenship and voting rights. The McCarran-Walter Act ended laws preventing Asian Americans from becoming Naturalized American Citizens, all last remnants of the Chinese Exclusion act, and allowed Chinese Americans full suffrage.



# DECEMBER 1, 1955

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Black seamstress [Rosa Parks](#) refuses to give up her seat to a white man on a bus in Montgomery, Ala. The move helps launch the [civil rights movement](#). (Why is this important? If we are declared equal in voting and slavery is over, why was this even allowed to happen?)



# 1962

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NEW MEXICO IS THE LAST STATE TO CHANGE ITS LAWS AND GIVE ALL NATIVE AMERICANS THE RIGHT TO VOTE, ACCORDING TO THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

# 1965

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- More than 500 peaceful participants in a Selma to Montgomery march for voting rights
- Alabama state troopers attacked them with nightsticks, tear gas, and whips after they refused to turn back
- Some protesters were severely beaten and bloodied





# 1965

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- In a speech of joint session of Congress, President Lyndon B. Johnson outlined the devious ways in which election officials denied African-American citizens the vote
- The voting rights bill was passed in the U.S. Senate by a 77-19 vote
- The U.S. House of Representatives passed the bill by a vote of 333-85 on July 9
- The Voting Rights Act of 1965 officially enforced the 15<sup>th</sup> amendment of the constitution

# JUNE 30, 1966

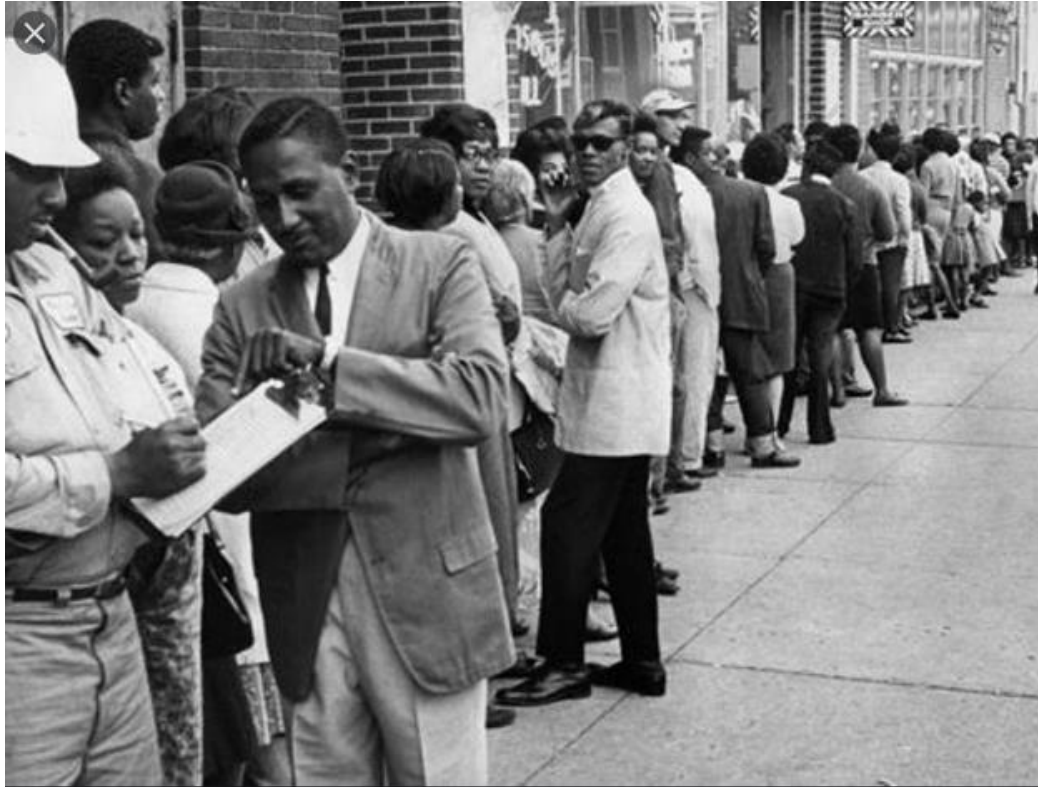
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[Betty Friedan](#), author of 1963's *The Feminine Mystique*, helps found the National Organization for Women (NOW), using, as the organization [now states](#), “grassroots activism to promote feminist ideals, lead societal change, eliminate discrimination, and achieve and protect the equal rights of all women and girls in all aspects of social, political, and economic life.”



# 1969

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- Voter turnout rises throughout the Southern states
- In Mississippi alone, voter turnout among blacks increased from 6% in 1964 to 59 % in 1969.
- By the end of 1965, 250,000 new African-American voters are registered to vote

# JUNE 23, 1972

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Title IX of the Education Amendments [is signed](#) into law by [President Richard Nixon](#). It states “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

– Why is this important? Because then even with the civil rights act, many minorities were not given the equal education opportunities that white women were, and therefore not educated on how to vote, where to vote, or even read.



# 1972

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- Barbara Jordan was the first African-American elected to the Texas Senate after the Reconstruction
- First African-American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives
- First African-American to deliver the keynote at the Democratic National Convention
- Received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, among numerous other honors





# 1974

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The Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, the first and largest non-partisan Latino voter participation organization in the US, started operations, with founder William C. Velasquez, and other Mexican-American political activists, discovering early that, despite the achievements of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, there remained barriers – particularly, language – for Latino voters preventing them from exercising their right.

# 1975

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- The Voting Rights Act has been amended to include features as the protection of voting rights for non-English speaking American citizens
- Congress added new provisions to protect members of language minority groups
- The amendment required jurisdictions with significant numbers of voters who have limited or no proficiency in English to provide voting materials in other languages

the Voting Rights Act was amended to give more to groups that are language minorities, including Native Americans.

The amendment specifically cites Arizona, Alaska and two South Dakota counties for discriminating against Native Americans.

# 1980

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RESIDENTS OF SHANNON, TODD AND WASHABAUGH COUNTIES IN SOUTH DAKOTA, WHICH ALL HAVE “OVERWHELMINGLY” NATIVE AMERICAN POPULATIONS – ARE ALLOWED TO HOLD COUNTY OFFICE, ACCORDING TO THE *BROOKS V. GANT* LAWSUIT.

Native Americans can officially run for Office.



# 1982

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- President Ronald Reagan signs a 25-year extension of the Voting Rights Act
- Contained stronger provisions against discrimination
- “As I’ve said before, the right to vote is the crown jewel of American liberties, and we will not see its luster diminished”



# 1984

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FALL RIVER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, RUNS THE ELECTIONS ON THE NEIGHBORING PINE RIDGE RESERVATION. (MIKE LAKUSIAK/NEWS 21)

JOE AMERICAN HORSE TURNS IN HIS VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION TO THE FALL RIVER COUNTY AUDITOR BEFORE THE DEADLINE, BUT THE AUDITOR REFUSES TO ACCEPT IT. HE AND OTHERS FILE A LAWSUIT. THE DAY BEFORE THE ELECTION, THE COURT [ORDERS](#) THE COUNTY TO ALLOW AMERICAN HORSE AND OTHERS NAMED IN THE SUIT TO VOTE.



# 1990

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Due, in part, to the enforcement of the Voting Rights Act, the number of African-American elected officials in Georgia grows to 495 from just three prior



# 1992

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A contentious congressional battle followed, with proponents of the legislation arguing that the lack of language assistance hinders recent naturalized citizens from exercising their right to vote and opponents asserting that the provision was too costly, suggesting removing the amendment entirely, limiting the extension to five years or requiring the federal government to pay for bilingual voting materials. Still, with mostly Democratic support, the legislation passed and was signed by President George H. W. Bush on August 26, 1992.

# 2006

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Congress extends Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act for an additional 25 years

The Justice Department blocks South Carolina's voter ID law, saying it discriminates against minority voters

The D.C. federal district court later preclears the law, but only because the state agreed that an ID was not required for voting



Pixabay

# 2010

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Communities of color have seen [voting restrictions increase](#), particularly in the form of strict photo ID requirements, like in Texas, Wisconsin and North Carolina, to early voting cutbacks, as seen in Florida, to other registration restrictions. Also, in 2013, in the case of Shelby v. Holder, the [Supreme Court weakened voting rights](#) protections by removing the requirement that some jurisdictions with a history of voting discrimination get pre-approval for voting changes, with states like Texas, Mississippi, North Carolina, Florida, Virginia, South Dakota, Iowa, and Indiana wasting little time enacting possibly discriminatory laws.

# 2013

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THE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES RULED 5-4 THAT A KEY PROVISION OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT WAS UNCONSTITUTIONAL. (MATT WADE/FLICKR)

ALASKA, ARIZONA AND TWO COUNTIES IN SOUTH DAKOTA WITH A HISTORY OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST NATIVE AMERICANS NO LONGER NEED TO [SUBMIT VOTING POLICY CHANGES](#) TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR APPROVAL.



# 2016

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Courts ruled that North Carolina, Kansas, North Dakota, and Texas must remove discriminatory restrictions that silence voters of color

Restrictions still remain in place in 13 other states



# 2020

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There are 1.1 million Hispanic veterans of the U.S. armed forces

Immigration debate

Latino population has grown sixfold since 1970, reaching an estimated 57.4 million in 2016, or nearly 18 percent of the population, according to the U.S. Bureau.

