

VOTING RIGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES

The Road to the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act



1869

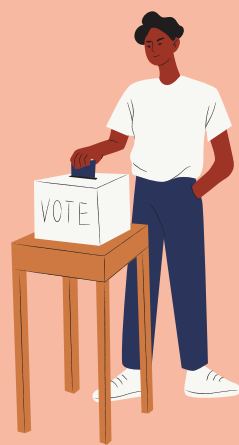
FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT

The right to vote cannot be abridged due to race, color, or prior servitude.

1890S

JIM CROW SOUTH AND CONTINUED VOTER SUPPRESSION

Despite the Fifteenth Amendment, many states enacted poll taxes and literacy tests, significantly decreasing Black turnout.



1965

THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

The act outlawed discriminatory voting practices and required particularly oppressive states to report all election changes to the Department of Justice, a process called preclearance.



2013

SHELBY COUNTY V. HOLDER

The Supreme Court ruled that Section 4(b), which determines what states are subject to preclearance, is unconstitutional.



2021

BRNOVICH V. DNC

The Supreme Court ruled that Arizona election laws--which had a discriminatory impact on minority voters--were not burdensome enough to justify a Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act violation.

John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021

The Voting Rights Act is essential to maintaining minority voting rights. The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021 created a new coverage formula for Section 4(b) and strengthened Section 2. It is currently stalled in the Senate.

URGE YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO VOTE YES TO THE BILL TO PROTECT MINORITY VOTING RIGHTS

More information about the Voting Rights Act and civil rights history:

Finkelman, Paul. 2015. “The Necessity of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Difficulty of Overcoming Almost a Century of Voting Discrimination.” LOUISIANA LAW REVIEW, 45.

More information about Shelby County v. Holder (2013)

“Shelby County v. Holder | Brennan Center for Justice.” 2018. Accessed May 5, 2022.
<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/court-cases/shelby-county-v-holder>.

More information about *Brnovich v. DNC* (2021):

"Brnovich v. Democratic National Committee." 2021. Oyez. Accessed May 5, 2022.
<https://www.oyez.org/cases/2020/19-1257>.

More information about the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act:

Sewell, Terri A. 2021. “Text - H.R.4 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021.” Legislation. 2021/2022. September 14, 2021.
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/4/text>.