



Expansion of Voting Rights

Colonial American Voters

Early British colonies shared the same view as the Greeks and Romans. They believed that property owners could participate in politics and would act in the public's best interest.

[Voting Rights in Colonial America: The Basic Ideas of Constitutional Government, Part 10 \(Video\)](#)

15th Amendment

The 15th Amendment was added to the Constitution in 1870 after the Civil War. It is considered one of the Reconstruction Amendments. It granted African American men the right to vote.

[Voting, Elections, and Representation, Part 9: The Fifteenth Amendment \(Video\)](#)

19th Amendment

The amendment was added to the Constitution in 1920, granting women the right to vote.

[The Nineteenth Amendment: Women's Suffrage Movement, Part 1 \(Video\)](#)

Indian Citizenship Act of 1924

Congress passed legislation allowing all "Indians born within the territorial limits of the United States" the right to vote.

[Indian Citizenship Act of 1924: Native American Heritage Month, Part 6 \(Video\)](#)

24th Amendment

The amendment was added to the Constitution in 1964, eliminating the poll tax and any other tax on voting.

[No Tax on Voting \(Video\)](#)

Voting Rights Act 1965

Congress passed legislation outlawing discrimination against all minorities and banning the literacy test.

[Voting Rights Act of 1965 \(Video\)](#)

26th Amendment

The amendment was added to the Constitution in 1971, lowering the voting age from 21 to 18.

[Votes for Young People \(Video\)](#)