# The Right to Vote

## A. As You Read

The chart below illustrates the expansion of suffrage. As you read Section 1, fill in the boxes provided by describing the portion of the American population that was qualified to vote at the time given.

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>the Constitution</td>
<td>1789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>dropped religious &amp; property qualifications</td>
<td>1850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>15th Amendment</td>
<td>1870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>19th Amendment</td>
<td>1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Civil Rights Movement</td>
<td>1960s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>26th Amendment</td>
<td>1971</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Write the correct term in the blank provided.

During the last two hundred years, Americans have broadened the right \(7.\) _________ by eliminating barriers based on \(8.\) _________ belief, \(9.\) _________ ownership, \(10.\) _________ payment, race, and \(11.\) _________. At the same time, the \(12.\) _________ Government has assumed a greater role in deciding who can vote and how elections should be run.

## B. Reviewing Key Terms

Match the descriptions in Column I with the terms in Column II. Write the correct letter in each blank. You may use two terms to answer one question.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column I</th>
<th>Column II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. electorate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. the right to vote</td>
<td>b. franchise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. the potential voting population</td>
<td>c. suffrage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 2: Guided Reading and Review

Voter Qualifications

A. As You Read

As you read Section 2, answer the following questions in the space provided.

1. According to the Constitution, can aliens vote? ________________________________
2. Do any State governments today allow aliens to vote? __________________________
3. What are the two reasons that States adopted residency requirements?
   a. ______________________________________________________________________
   b. ______________________________________________________________________
4. What is the longest period of residence that any State today requires before permitting new residents to vote? ________________________________
5. What is the oldest minimum age a State can set for voters? ______________________
6. What kinds of information are voters usually asked to give when they register to vote? __________________________________________________________________________________
7. a. Why do some people argue that voter registration ought to be abolished? __________
    b. Why do others believe registration is important? ______________________________________________________________________
7. a. Why do some people argue that voter registration ought to be abolished? __________
7. b. Why do others believe registration is important? ______________________________________________________________________
8. What were the three provisions of the Motor Voter Law? _________________________
9. Why were literacy tests abolished? _____________________________________________
10. In what region of the country was the poll tax once used? Why was it abolished? ______________
11. What groups of persons are widely barred from voting? __________________________

B. Reviewing Key Terms

Complete each sentence by writing the correct term in the blank provided.

12. ____________________________ is the ability to read or write.
13. A ____________________________ was a sum of money that had to be paid by the voter at the time he or she cast a ballot.
14. ____________________________ is a procedure for voter identification.
15. Election officials are regularly supposed to ____________ their _________________ of the names of those who no longer meet voting requirements.
16. Most States prohibit ________________, people who live there for a short time, from being considered legal residents.
A. As You Read

As you read Section 3, complete the paragraphs below by writing the correct answers in the blanks provided.

The 15th Amendment was ratified in (1.) __________. It states that no citizen can be denied suffrage on the basis of (2.) __________, color, or previous condition of (3.) __________. Although this amendment was intended to enfranchise (4.) __________ men, in fact it was not enforced for almost 100 years.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 forbade discriminatory (10.) __________ requirements. It relied heavily on the use of the (11.) __________ system to overcome racial discrimination. Its shortcomings became clear when Martin Luther (12.) __________ organized a voter registration drive in the city of (13.) __________. Efforts to register African-American voters were met with violent opposition.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 attacked the use of the (14.) __________ tax and (15.) __________ tests. It authorized the appointment of (16.) __________ in any State or county in which less than (17.) __________ of the electorate had been registered or (18.) __________ in the 1964 elections. In 1975 the law was extended to cover States and counties in which more than (19.) __________ percent of the adult population belongs to the following groups: (20.) __________

The Civil Rights Act of 1960 set up the (5.) __________ and gave the attorney general the right to seek federal (6.) __________ to prevent actions that interfered with the voting rights of qualified citizens.

The Civil Rights Act of 1957 provided for the appointment of federal (7.) __________ __________. Their duty was to make sure that qualified citizens were allowed to (8.) __________ and (9.) __________ in federal elections.

B. Reviewing Key Terms

Write the correct definition for each of the following terms on a separate sheet of paper and tell why they were important.

21. gerrymandering
22. injunction
23. preclearance
A. As You Read

As you read the section, fill in the answers to the questions below.

1. What type of election years have the highest voter turnout? ______________________________
2. What is “ballot fatigue”? __________________________________________________________
3. What is the largest group of “cannot-voters”? _____ ___________________________________
4. Why do some nonvoters deliberately choose to not vote? ________________________________

5. What is “time-zone fallout”? ______________________________________________________
6. What is the chief reason that most nonvoters do not vote? ______________________________

7. How do each of these factors affect the likelihood of whether people do or do not vote?
   a. level of income: ________________________________________________________________
   b. occupation: __________________________________________________________________
   c. education: ____________________________________________________________________
   d. age: _________________________________________________________________________
   e. gender: _____________________________________________________________________
   f. party identification: __________________________________________________________

Fill in the characteristics in the chart below to compare some factors that influence whether people are more likely to vote Democrat or Republican.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Republican</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income/Occupation</td>
<td>8.</td>
<td>9.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>10.</td>
<td>11.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender/Age</td>
<td>12.</td>
<td>13.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>14.</td>
<td>15.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
<td>16.</td>
<td>17.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>18.</td>
<td>19.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Reviewing Key Terms

On a separate sheet of paper, define the following terms.

20. off-year election  23. gender gap  26. split-ticket voting
21. political efficacy  24. party identification  27. independents
22. political socialization  25. straight-ticket voting