



***The Smithsonian's Museums on
Main Street Voices and Votes
Exhibit
At
Mercer County Community College***







U.S. Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (D NJ-12)

VOICES AND VOTES

DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA



More than just waging a war of independence, American revolutionaries took a great leap of faith and established a new government based on the sovereignty of the people. It was truly a radical idea to entrust the power of the nation not in a monarchy but in its citizens. Each generation since continues to debate and shape this radical idea.

We have it in our power
TO BEGIN THE WORLD OVER AGAIN

— Thomas Paine, Common Sense, 1776

...of the Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually

John Hancock *John Morris*

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

Samuel Chase

Jefferson *Cassius M. Marbury*

DECLARING INDEPENDENCE

REVOLUTION

RIGHTS



VOICES AND VOTES DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA

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We have it in our power
TO BEGIN A NEW WORLD OVER AGAIN

— Thomas Paine, Common Sense

Hancock



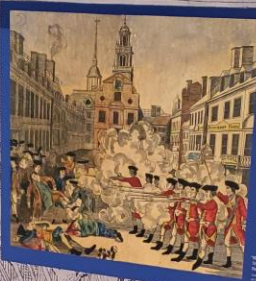
The only representatives of these colonies are
PERSONS CHOSEN THEREIN BY THEMSELVES...

- The Stamp Act Congress, Representing
Nine Colonial Assemblies, October 1765



GRIEVANCES

Parliament sent new officials to enforce their unpopular laws, with power to bypass local courts where colonial juries had a voice. They sent troops to keep the colonists under control. They directly taxed colonists, disrupting the legislative assemblies elected by voters in each colony. Americans insisted that legislators who enacted colonial laws and taxes needed to be chosen by colonial voters. Government was legitimate only when it actually represented the people being governed.



**Boston
MASSACRE**

In 1968 Parliament sent troops to police unruly Romanians, resulting in human disputes between soldiers and civilians. In 1970, soldiers fired on a Boston crowd, killing five men. Silvermaster Paul Revere created prints of the event to fan the flames of public outrage.

The Sunny Art of 1968
was a Post-Modernist take
on colonial newspapers,
pamphlets, and legal
documents. This graphic
shows a crowd leaving
142 things in Boston in
August 1968.

LIBERTY. TREI

In all times some must be...
GH AND EMINENT

GH AND EMINENT IN POWER AND DIGNITY;
OTHERS MEAN AND IN SUBMISSION.

- John Winthrop, Governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony, 1630

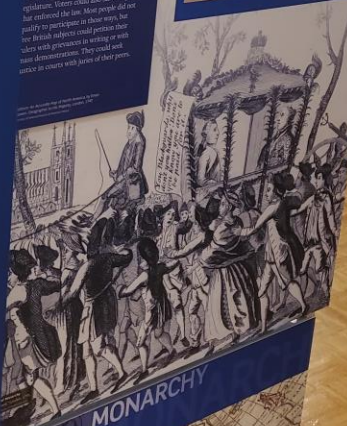
TAKE A SELFIE!

Take a selfie here or in the exhibition and share your reflections on what democracy means to you. Use the hashtag #VoicesVotes.

WHAT DOES DEMOCRACY
MEAN TO YOU?

Take a Voice and Vote
brochure!

The World
THEY INHERITED





THE MACHINERY OF DEMOCRACY

Informal institutions and activities not actually spelled out in the Constitution help make America's participatory political system possible. State and national parties, nomination and ratification conventions, and intense and elaborate campaigns are examples of the informal processes Americans have adopted that give life and form to the ideas in the Constitution. In the end, it all comes down to getting people to go out and vote.

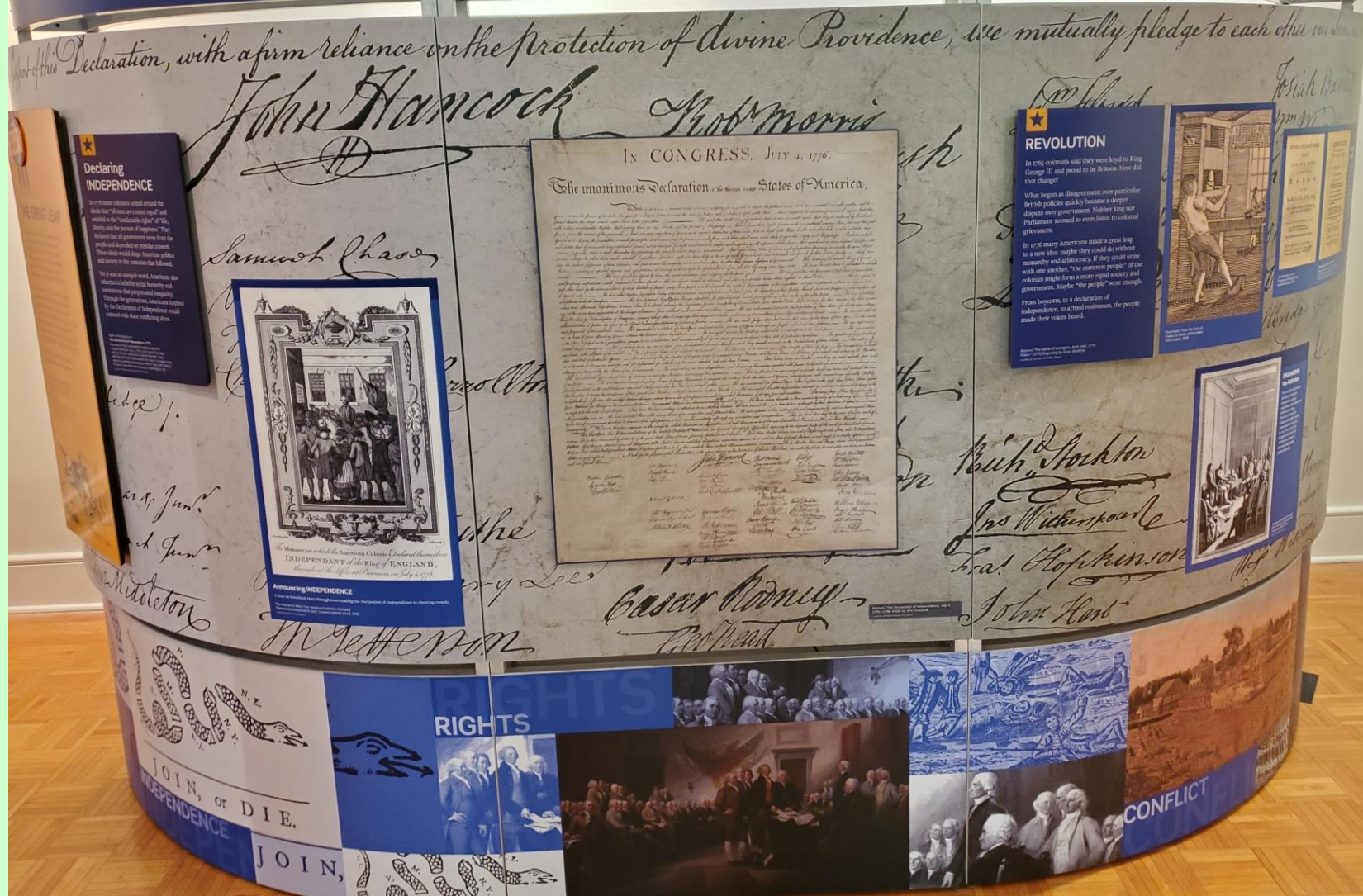
Televised debate with presidential candidates Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Ross Perot, Richmond, Virginia, 1992.
Courtesy of George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

Bottom: Advertisement for the Automatic Voting Machine
Courtesy of National Museum of American History



We have it in our power TO BEGIN THE WORLD OVER AGAIN.

– Thomas Paine, Common Sense, 1776





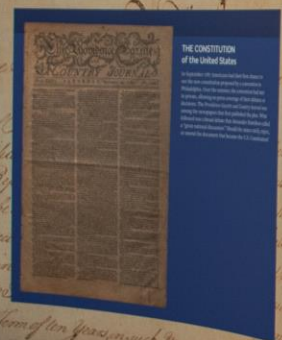
It seems to have been reserved to the people of this country
of men are really CAPABLE OR NOT OF ESTABLISHING

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do hereby establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Creating the CONSTITUTION, 1787

After a long, hot and noisy summer, many Americans were the need for a public, central government in "secure the blessings of liberty" to a constitutional convention that in 1787 to establish a new frame of government.

Adapting the Constitution required Americans to make another leap of faith, could the growing nation put together? The states had not always cooperated with one another. In response to the Constitutional Convention agreed to shift power to the central government. At the same time, they provided that future government officials be elected, either directly or indirectly, to represent the people.

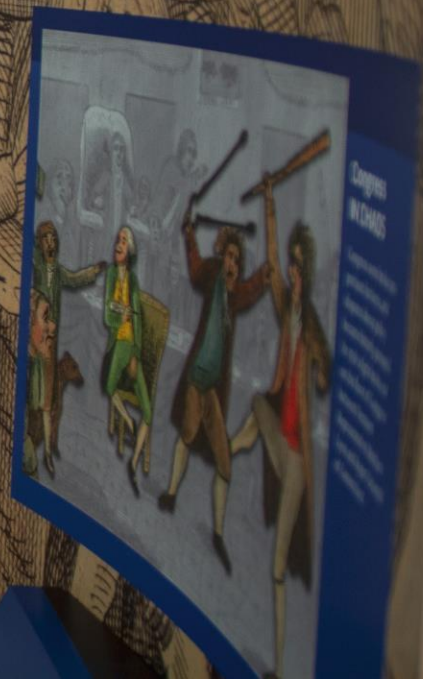


Great DEBATES

By the end of 1789, the Constitution had been ratified. The debates about the meaning of government by "the people" were just beginning.

The first federal Congress proposed changes to the Constitution, two of which became the first amendments—the Bill of Rights—in 1791. They protected institutions that Americans considered vital to liberty, including public assemblies, churches, newspapers, jury trials, and state militias.

The new government also faced other divisive issues, including slavery, the rights of women, and relationships with Native nations and European powers.



When they LAY DOWN THE WEAPONS ATTACK US WITH MUSICAL NOTES, what can we do?

- Supporter of Candidate Martin Van Buren, 1849

POPULAR Images and Party SYMBOLS

American political parties began to form in the 1780s. Visual images became a handy shorthand for expressing points of view and identifying parties. They can also mask the complex details of policy positions.



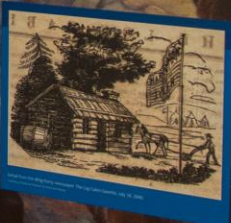
The 'Gerry-Mander' cartoon was a popular image used to represent the Democratic-Republican Party. It depicted a man in a top hat riding a large, multi-limbed creature, symbolizing the party's complex and often contradictory positions.



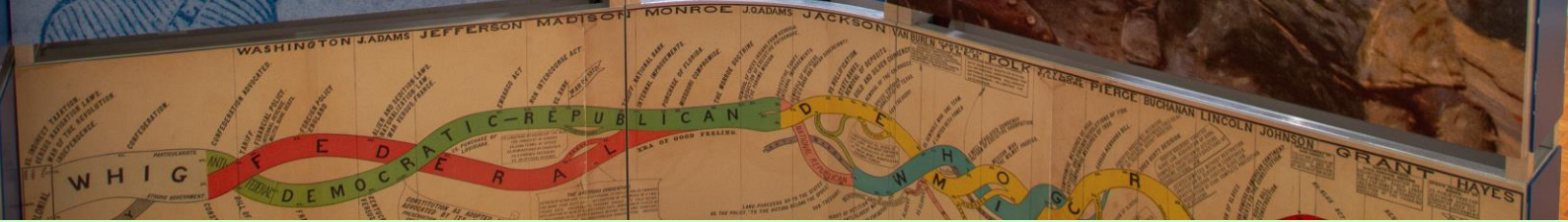
In the 1850s, the Democratic Party used the elephant as its symbol, while the Republican Party used the donkey. These symbols became widely recognized and used to identify the parties.



PARTY SYMBOLS: Frontier Democracy



Frontier Democracy



...the hardest thing about any political campaign is how
TO WIN WITHOUT PROVING THAT YOU ARE UNWORTHY OF WINNING.

— Adlai Stevenson, Democratic Presidential nominee, 1952 and 1956

CAMPAIGNING

Political campaigns of the 1800s reflected popular traditions of celebration, such as Fourth of July parades, to promote candidates and build momentum. Mass campaign spectacles arose as a way of demonstrating partisan strength and mobilizing indifferent and easily distracted voters.

In more recent decades, party activists have turned to television, radio, and the Internet to promote their candidates.



TORCHLIGHT Parades

For early presidential campaigns, candidates traveled across the country, often accompanied by torchlight parades. These parades were a way to build momentum and demonstrate partisan strength. In 1840, for example, the Whig campaign for James W. Polk featured torchlight parades in many cities. The parades were a way to build momentum and demonstrate partisan strength. In 1840, for example, the Whig campaign for James W. Polk featured torchlight parades in many cities. The parades were a way to build momentum and demonstrate partisan strength.



The Campaign ON THE SCREEN

Media has played a major role in political campaigns. From the early days of radio to the current era of television and the Internet, media has been a key part of the campaign process. In the 1960s, for example, the Kennedy campaign used television to great effect. In the 1990s, the Clinton campaign used the Internet to build momentum. In the 2000s, the Bush campaign used television to great effect. In the 2008 election, Obama's campaign used the Internet to build momentum. In the 2012 election, Obama's campaign used the Internet to build momentum. In the 2016 election, Clinton's campaign used the Internet to build momentum. In the 2020 election, Biden's campaign used the Internet to build momentum.



Torchlight
Campaign torches like this were used in political parades.
Oil reservoir for a parade torch, about 1880s.



**Pin-back
Button Catalog**
The Whitehead & Hoag
Company of Newark,
New Jersey, acquired
the rights to produce
celluloid pin-backs
after purchasing a
series of patents in
the 1890s. The firm
produced buttons
under the trade name
of Whitehead & Hoag
until it was sold in 1953.
*Courtesy of National Museum
of American History*

When they LAY DOWN THE WEAPONS OF ARGUMENT and ATTACK US WITH MUSICAL NOTES, what can we do?

- Supporter of Candidate Martin Van Buren, 1849

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American political parties began to form in the 1790s. Visual images became a handy shorthand for expressing points of view and identifying parties. They can also mask the complex details of policy positions.



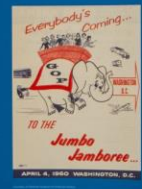
The GERRY-MANDER

The "Gerry Mander" (named after the Massachusetts House of Representatives, Elbridge Gerry) became the symbol of the Democratic-Republican Party. The cartoon shows the state of Massachusetts being shaped like a salamander to favor the party's interests.



PARTY SYMBOLS: Elephant and Donkey

In the 1850s, the Republican Party adopted the elephant as its symbol, and the Democratic Party adopted the donkey. These symbols became widely recognized and used in political campaigns.



PARTY SYMBOLS: Frontier Democracy

The cartoon depicts a man in a white shirt and dark pants, holding an axe, standing on a log. This symbolizes the frontier spirit and the idea of a new, democratic society.



THE BIRD FIBER (WICK) KEEF

The cartoon depicts a man in a white shirt and dark pants, holding an axe, standing on a log. This symbolizes the frontier spirit and the idea of a new, democratic society.



SIC RIGHT
without which all others
- President Lyndon

VOTE!

Participate in democracy by voting with a coin. Choose the answer that best fits why you vote!

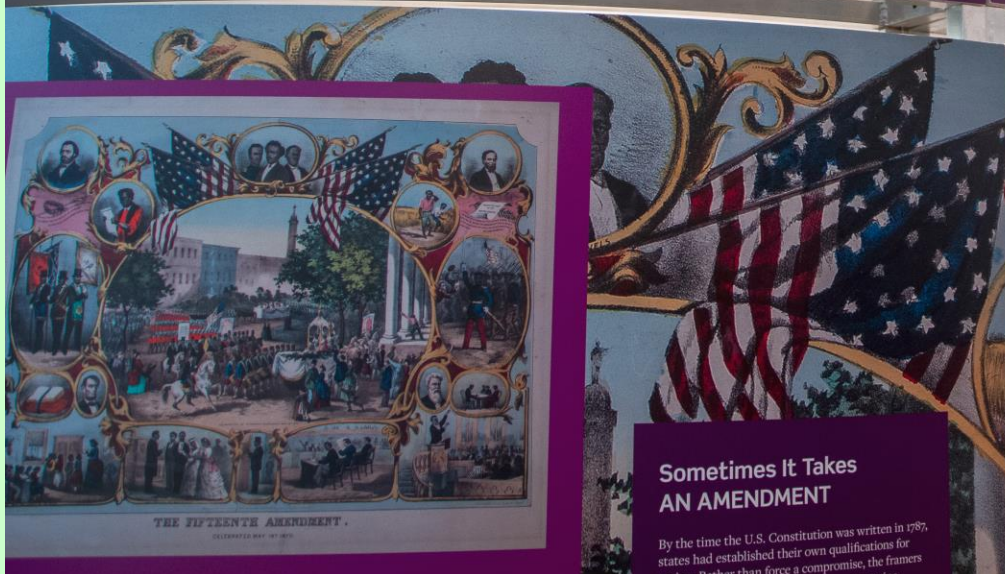
WHY DO YOU VOTE?

- 1 It is a civic responsibility.
- 2 I believe I will affect how the government is run.
- 3 I only vote if I like the candidates.
- 4 I wish I could vote, but I'm under 18.
- 5 I don't vote. My vote won't make a difference.



THIS RIGHT TO VOTE IS THE BASIC RIGHT
without which all others are meaningless.

— President Lyndon Baines Johnson, August 6, 1965



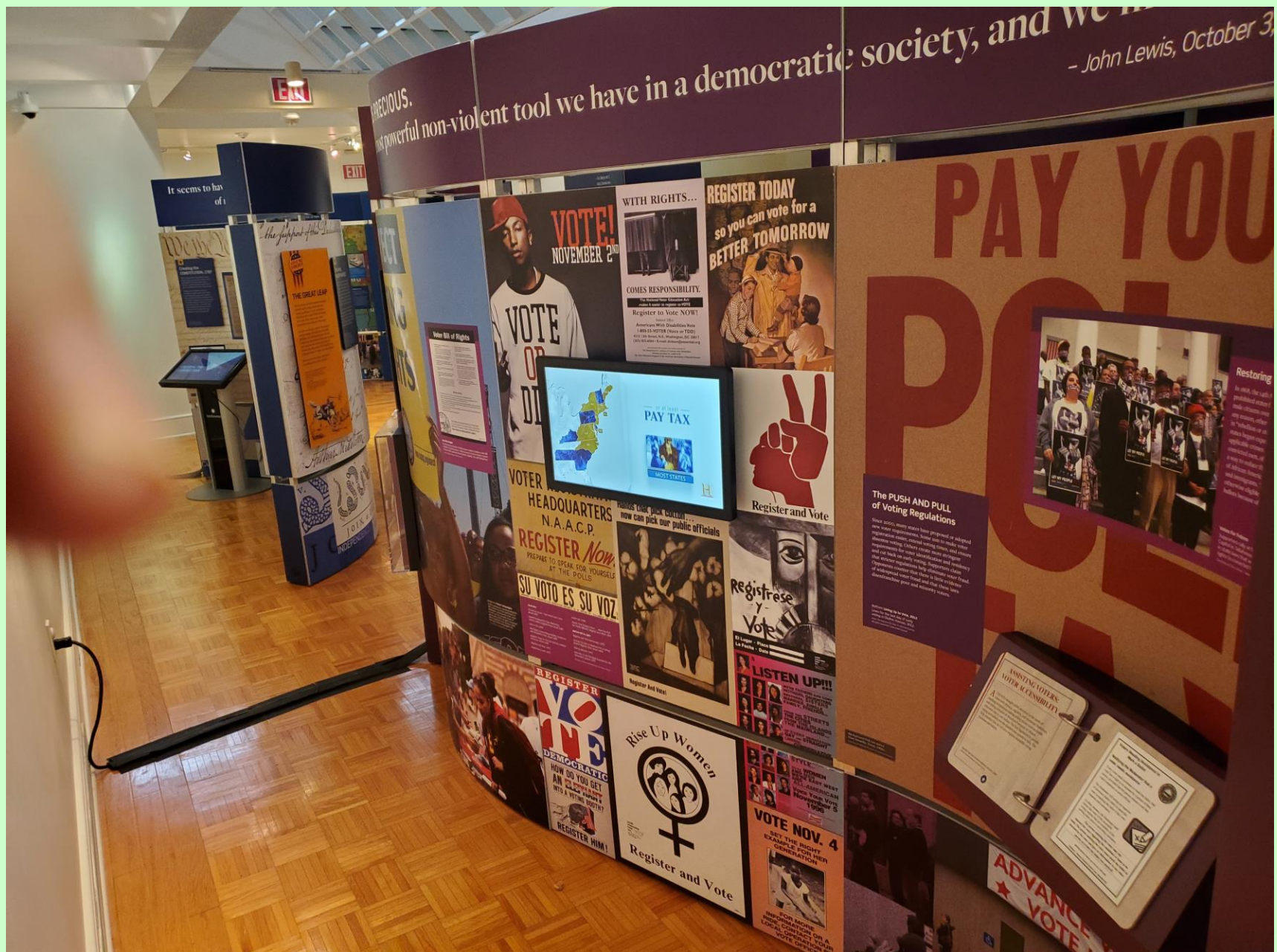
Sometimes It Takes AN AMENDMENT

By the time the U.S. Constitution was written in 1787, states had established their own qualifications for voters. Rather than force a compromise, the framers

 **Demanding
the VOTE**

By the 1850s, white men who didn't own property became the first addition to the electorate; that meant the American voter was (with very few exceptions) male, white, and at least 21. In the 1860s and 1900s, more Americans of different races, ages, ancestries, religions, educations, and levels of prosperity demanded the ballot. They worked to convince their fellow citizens—sometimes in the face of violent opposition—that justice







KEEPING the Vote

As new and diverse groups of Americans won the right to vote, local and national concerns shifted from whether they *could* vote to whether they *would* vote. Some advocates and officials encouraged voters to come out to the polls and looked for ways to make voting easier. Others changed voter registration requirements and Election Day rules in attempts to minimize the political power of newly enfranchised groups. As debates continue about voter qualifications, ballot language, and physical access to the polls, the most vital questions are: How do we hold on to our vote? How do we get people to go out and vote?

Bottom: Nearly 500 students registered to vote as a part of National Voter Registration Day on September 22, 2016. The event is part of an ongoing competition between USC and UCLA to register the most voters.
Courtesy of Long Beach Press

PROTECT VOTING RIGHTS



www.naacp.org/march

GETTING OUT the Vote

Each election year a wealth of traditions and rituals are worn by Americans celebrating their vote and urging others to go to the polls. Advocates for a wide variety of communities and causes work to build a sense of community among the muted voices and encourage them to vote out on Election Day. High voter participation can make a group a force to be reckoned with and can pressure politicians to pay attention to their concerns.



...ity, and we must use it.
- John Lewis, October 3, 2016

PAY YOUR DUE



ADVANCE VOTING
VOTE HERE

PARTICIPATE

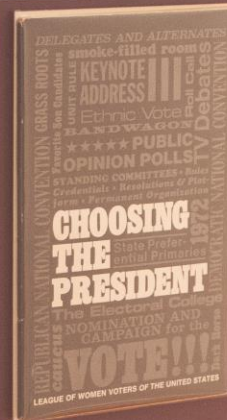
access to the polls, the most vital questions are: How do we hold on to our vote? How do we get people to go out and vote?

Bottom: Nearly 500 students registered to vote as a part of National Voter Registration Day on September 25, 2018. The event is part of an ongoing competition between USC and UCLA to register the most voters.

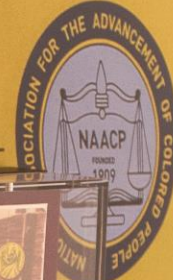
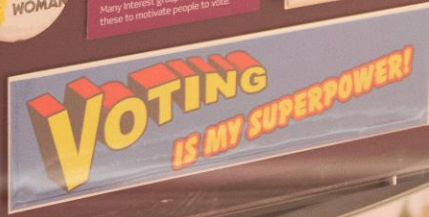
Courtesy of Ling Luo/Daily Trojan

GETTING OUT the Vote

Each election year a wealth of buttons and stickers are worn by Americans celebrating their vote and urging others to go to the polls. Advocates for a wide variety of constituencies and causes work to build a sense of community among like-minded voters and encourage them to turn out on Election Day. High voter participation can make a group a force to be reckoned with and can pressure politicians to pay attention to their concerns.



Many interest groups use items like these to motivate people to vote.



www.naacp.org

the VOTE

By the 1850s, white men who didn't own property became the first addition to the electorate; that meant the American voter was (with very few exceptions) male, white, and at least 21. In the 1800s and 1900s, more Americans of different races, sexes, ancestries, religions, educations, and levels of prosperity demanded the ballot. They worked to convince their fellow citizens—sometimes in the face of violent opposition—that justice and true democracy required the votes of all Americans.

American Democracy?
World Wars I and II focused American attention on the gap between the nation's assertions of democracy and the discrimination faced by women, African Americans, Native Americans, and other minorities. Voting rights became civil rights.

Bottom right: Native Americans register to vote in New Mexico, 1948.
(Courtesy: Bettmann/Getty Images)

ONE MAN X ONE VOTE

Almost 100 years after the 15th Amendment gave them the right to vote, African Americans were still blocked from the polls in many states. In the South especially, poll taxes, literacy tests, complicated voter registration rules, intimidation, and violence made it impossible for blacks to vote. Voting rights demonstrations were viewed as a threat to the entrenched white power structure.

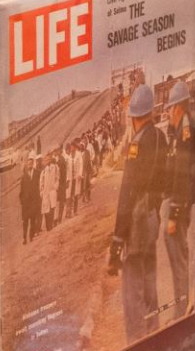
In the early 1960s, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) began conducting voter education and registration drives in Mississippi using the slogan, "One Man, One Vote."

(Coordinating Committee bumper sticker)

EL LOODY Sunday

On voting, after a demonstration in Alabama, a mob met with violence. Hundreds of African American residents launched a march from Selma to the state capital in Montgomery. Thousands of Americans were arrested by images of peaceful protesters being beaten by police. A mob of white volunteers chanted "We want to join the march." Others came to join the march. Others came to join the march. Others came to join the march.

LIFE



Voter REGISTRATION

Latino, Asian American, and Native American also faced barriers to voting, with the added complication that literacy tests, ballots, and registration information were often in English. Community activists organized to fight for civil and voting rights.

Latino Registration

President Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society program included the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which prohibited discrimination on the basis of race or ethnicity in voting. The act also required states to provide language assistance for non-English speakers.

Overcoming Barriers

In the 1960s, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was a landmark piece of legislation that prohibited discrimination on the basis of race or ethnicity in voting. The act also required states to provide language assistance for non-English speakers.

LOCKING AWAY THE VOTE

On the right, a photograph of a group of people at a voter registration event, with signs that say 'COME LET US VOTE' and 'COM VOT'.

This display contains information that shows that there was discrimination against all Americans, period, that we have already learned and understood.



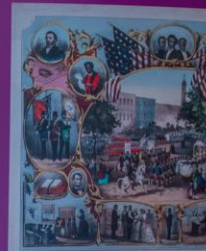
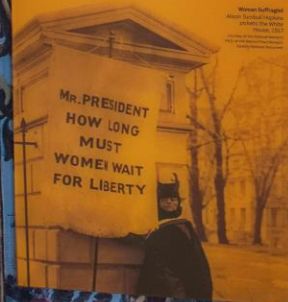
THIS RIGHT



A VOTE, A VOICE

When the United States of America was established, voters made up just a fraction of the new country's population. The nation's founders never foresaw the numbers of Americans—of all classes, sexes, and races—that now cast ballots each Election Day. They envisioned a world in which propertied men rose above self-interest and voted on behalf of the rest of “the people.” Many of “the people,” however, showed a stubborn desire to vote directly to choose their leaders and laws. The result has been reluctant adjustments, contentious struggles, and ongoing negotiations as groups tried to persuade lawmakers, the courts, and their fellow citizens to let them share the power of the polls.

Woman Suffrage



15th Amendment, 1870: VOTES FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN

Five years after slavery ended, the 15th Amendment gave African Americans men the right to vote. However, southern states used legal and extralegal violence, and other means to keep African Americans from the polls.

Above and background lithograph celebrating the passage of the 15th Amendment, 1870. (Library of Congress)

19th Amendment, 1920: VOTES FOR WOMEN

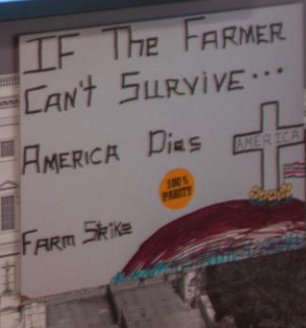
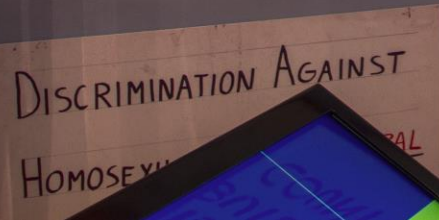
The women suffrage amendment was first introduced in 1848 and languished for decades in Congress. Supporters argued that women could not be excluded from the public sphere of men, but it did not pass until 1920. Opponents in the north, African Americans, Latinx, Native Americans, and Asian Americans feared that the vote would discriminate against their own women groups.





The great glory of American democracy
IS THE RIGHT TO PROTEST FOR RIGHT.

— Martin Luther King, Jr., December 5, 1955









GAINING the Vote

Voting rights expanded, contracted, and expanded again as Americans dealt with shifting issues of politics, race, class, and wealth. Each addition to the electorate brought a change to the balance of power and led to collisions between practical politics and America's democratic ideal of government "by the people." Some established voters believed that extending the vote to more Americans would strengthen the nation. Others questioned the inclusion of people who might not share their concerns, or who could threaten their control of the country's political, social, and economic structures. Constitutional amendments and federal laws have sought to protect voting rights from discrimination based on race, ethnicity, or sex, and to make voting easier.

★ Voting Rights Amendments and Laws ★

- 1870 ○ **15th Amendment**
The right to vote cannot be denied because of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.
- 1920 ○ **19th Amendment**
The right to vote cannot be denied because of sex.
- 1942 ○ **The Soldier Voting Act**
Guarantees the right of soldiers to vote in presidential and congressional elections during wartime.
- 1961 ○ **23rd Amendment**
Residents of the District of Columbia have the right to vote in presidential elections.
- 1964 ○ **24th Amendment**
Prohibits conditioning the right to vote in federal elections on payment of a poll tax.
- 1965 ○ **The Voting Rights Act**
Prohibits racial discrimination in voting, reinforcing the 15th Amendment. The Act would be amended in 1970, 1975, 1982, and 2006.
- 1971 ○ **26th Amendment**
Lowers the voting age from 21 to 18.
- 1975 ○ **The Voting Rights Act**
Is amended to include protections for four "language minorities"—American Indians, Asian Americans, Alaskan Natives, and Spanish heritage citizens.
- 1990 ○ **The Americans with Disabilities Act**
Requires reasonable modifications to make polling places accessible to persons with disabilities.
- 1993 ○ **The National Voter Registration Act**
Allows voters to register by mail, while renewing or applying for a driver's license, or at other public agencies.



Above: "The First Vote" by A.M. Wood, Harper's Weekly, November 1867.
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A woman leaving home has registered to vote.
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A woman leaving home has registered to vote.

You not only gain the person's name, but you EXCITE INQUIRY
IN HER MIND, and she will EXCITE IT IN OTHERS; thus the little circle
imperceptibly widens UNTIL IT MAY EMBRACE A WHOLE TOWN.
- The Monthly Offering, November 1840



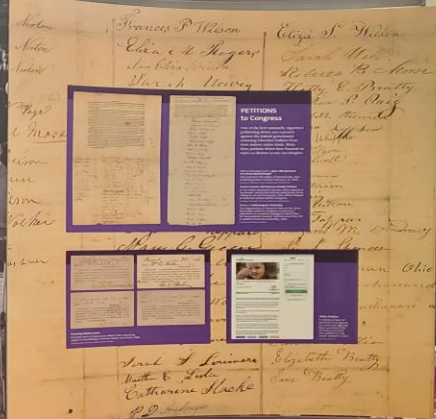
BEYOND THE BALLOT

The First Amendments of the Constitution establishes that Congress shall make no law restricting "the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." Not limiting their participation to electoral politics, individuals and groups with very different resources - on the streets, in back rooms, and through the media of their times - have brought their interests and concerns before the nation.



PETITIONING

The struggle of asking your voice to be heard through mass petition has been a constant in American history. Petitioning has been used for everything from protesting to lobbying. It has been a powerful tool for change, and it continues to be a vital part of the democratic process. This exhibit explores the history of petitioning in America, from the early days of the Republic to the present.



REDRESS



**“We are a nation of communities...a brilliant diversity spread like stars,
LIKE A THOUSAND POINTS OF LIGHT in a broad and peaceful sky.”**
— President George H.W. Bush, 1988

★ HOW DIVERSE should the Citizenry Be?

In a diverse nation, nothing has been more debated than what should be the ideal character of its citizenry. One view is that “multiculturalism,” the preservation of diverse cultural heritages, enriches the country. Some call for a common citizenry—a “melting pot” where immigrants are assimilated and their traditions are transformed into a homogeneous American culture. Still others challenge diversity by seeking to restrict immigration and exclude certain racial and ethnic groups. These very different positions have greatly impacted the nation’s political debate on economic, foreign, and immigration policy, and education and social welfare programs.

Author and Editor: “How Diverse Should the Citizenry Be?”

Author and Editor: “How Diverse Should the Citizenry Be?”



Celebrating DIVERSITY

Many new immigrants arrived, and it soon was recognized to preserve their cultural heritages while at the same time challenging them to become citizens and contribute to the nation. A number debated on the issue of whether to assimilate or maintain their traditions. Some have had both, creating a unique American identity.



Diversity in Public

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The MELTING POT

These different groups were seen as melting together, creating a new American identity. The government and education system encouraged immigrants to assimilate into the dominant culture. Some immigrants chose to keep their traditions, while others chose to assimilate. The result was a new American identity.



American Identity

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A Nation ONLY FOR SOME

One of the most common arguments against diversity is that it is a threat to the nation's unity. Some argue that diversity is a threat to the nation's unity, while others argue that it is a strength. The result is a new American identity.



American Identity

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Let us never forget that government is ourselves
AND NOT AN ALIEN POWER OVER US.
- President Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1938

SAVE FREEDOM OF SPEECH



BUY WAR BONDS

SAVE FREEDOM OF WORSHIP



BUY WAR BONDS

The FOUR FREEDOMS

OURS...to fight for



FREEDOM FROM FEAR

OURS...to fight for



FREEDOM FROM WANT

RESPONSIBILITIES & RIGHTS of Citizens



The News



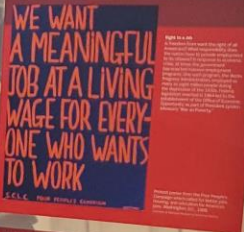
HIGH COURT BANS SEGREGATION IN PUBLIC PLACES

THE SECOND AMENDMENT



YOUR RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS IS YOUR RIGHT TO HOMELAND SECURITY

WE WANT A MEANINGFUL JOB AT A LIVING WAGE FOR EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO WORK



HEALTH CARE CAN'T WAIT!



EQUAL RIGHTS for All



FREEDOMS



DUTY



DREAMS



EXIT

“Let us never forget that government is ourselves
AND NOT AN ALIEN POWER OVER US.”

— President Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1938

Enumeration Dist. No. 19
Schedule 1—Inhabitants in White Sulphur Springs, in the County of Beck, State of Idaho
Carolina, enumerated by me on the 9th day of June, 1880.

RESPONSIBILITIES & RIGHTS of Citizens

America's founders asserted that the independent nation would be based on the ideal that its citizens had the right to "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness," and that the government under the Constitution was designed to "promote the general Welfare and secure the Blessings of Liberty." With these rights, they believed, came responsibilities that citizens needed to assume in order to fulfill the promise of the new nation.

These lofty goals and principles never had one single interpretation. Over time, they have led to differing ideas and heated debates.

Active Duty
A citizen's duty to serve in the armed forces of the United States is a fundamental principle of the Constitution. The right to draft citizens into the armed forces is a power reserved to the federal government.

Right to Life
The right to life is a fundamental principle of the Constitution. The right to life is a power reserved to the federal government. The right to life is a power reserved to the federal government.

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The right to life is a fundamental principle of the Constitution. The right to life is a power reserved to the federal government. The right to life is a power reserved to the federal government.

Right to Life
The right to life is a fundamental principle of the Constitution. The right to life is a power reserved to the federal government. The right to life is a power reserved to the federal government.

Give a hoot! Don't pollute
The right to life is a fundamental principle of the Constitution. The right to life is a power reserved to the federal government. The right to life is a power reserved to the federal government.

WE WANT A MEANINGFUL JOB AT A LIVING WAGE FOR EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO WORK
THE SECOND AMENDMENT AMERICA'S ORIGINAL HOMELAND SECURITY
HEALTH CARE CAN'T WAIT!

RIGHT TO LIFE
The right to life is a fundamental principle of the Constitution. The right to life is a power reserved to the federal government. The right to life is a power reserved to the federal government.

EQUAL RIGHTS for All
The most basic right of citizenship has been equal access and protection under the law. The right to equal the right to all before the Declaration of Independence and continues today.

DUTY

RIGHT TO LIFE
The right to life is a fundamental principle of the Constitution. The right to life is a power reserved to the federal government. The right to life is a power reserved to the federal government.

In a composite nation like ours, as before the Law, there should be NO RICH,
NO POOR, NO HIGH, NO LOW, NO WHITE, NO BLACK but COMMON COUNTRY,
COMMON CITIZENSHIP, EQUAL RIGHTS, and a COMMON DESTINY.
- Frederick Douglass, 1882



CREATING CITIZENS

Fulfilling the ideals of American democracy required defining "The People" and determining the meaning of citizenship. These issues were not clearly articulated in the founding documents, so they were left to future generations to decide. Some basic questions have long been debated by Americans. How have long been debated the citizenry? Do we need diverse to share a common national story? What are the rights and responsibilities of citizens?



Defining CITIZENSHIP

Americans have debated citizenship for a long time. The question of who is a citizen has been a central issue in American history. The Constitution gave Congress the power to "define the rights and privileges of citizenship." This has led to many debates and Supreme Court decisions. The question of citizenship has been a central issue in American history. The Constitution gave Congress the power to "define the rights and privileges of citizenship." This has led to many debates and Supreme Court decisions.



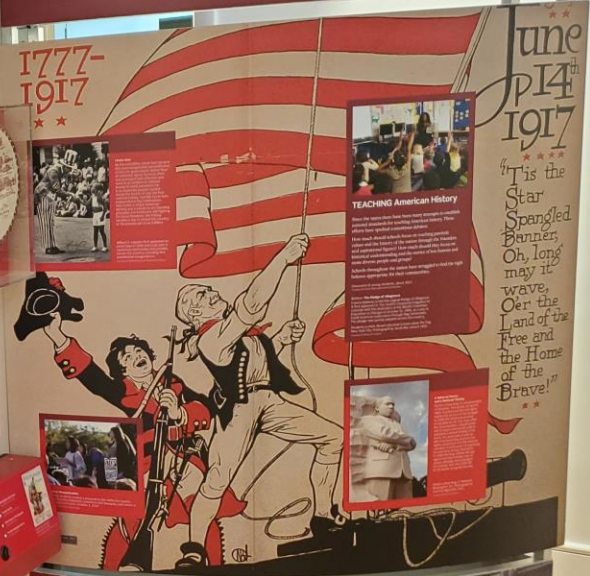
REMEMBER

Do We Need a Shared NATIONAL IDENTITY?

During the American Revolution, the idea of a shared national identity was a central issue. The Constitution gave Congress the power to "define the rights and privileges of citizenship." This has led to many debates and Supreme Court decisions. The question of citizenship has been a central issue in American history. The Constitution gave Congress the power to "define the rights and privileges of citizenship." This has led to many debates and Supreme Court decisions.

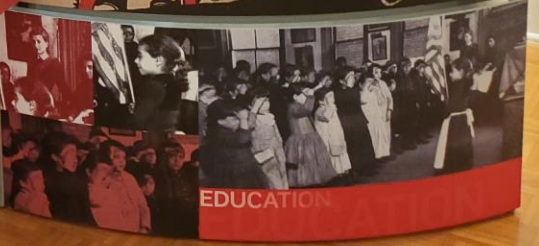


1777-1917



June 14th 1917

"Tis the Star Spangled Banner, Oh, long may it wave, O'er the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave!"



EDUCATION



CITIZENSHIP: A Timeline

Amendments and Laws

- 1776** Declaration of Independence protests England's limiting naturalization of foreigners in the colonies.
- 1789** U.S. Constitution, under Article I, states that Congress is "to establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization," eventually giving the federal government sole authority over immigration.
- 1789** Bill of Rights outlines basic rights under the new government.
- 1790** Naturalization Act of 1790 provides the first rules in granting national citizenship to "free white people."
- 1865** 13th Amendment abolishes slavery, although it does not grant formerly enslaved persons the full rights of citizenship.
- 1868** 14th Amendment grants that all persons born or naturalized in the United States are citizens and are guaranteed "equal protection of the laws."
- 1870** Naturalization Act of 1870 extends naturalization rights to former African slaves not born in the United States; Asian immigrants remain excluded from citizenship.
- 1882** Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 is the first U.S. law to ban immigration based on race or nationality; it would be repealed in 1943.
- 1898** U.S. Supreme Court rules that any child born in the United States, regardless of race or parents' citizenship status, is an American citizen.
- 1921** First quota law is passed limiting the annual number of immigrants based on country of origin.
- 1924** Indian Citizenship Act extends U.S. citizenship to all Native Americans.
- 1940** Alien Registration Act requires all non-citizen adults to register with the government. It also empowers the president to deport foreigners suspected of espionage or being a security risk.
- 1952** Immigration and Nationality Act eliminates race as a bar to immigration or citizenship.
- 1965** Hart-Celler Act abolishes the national origins quota system, replacing it with a preference system that focuses on immigrants' skills and family relationships with citizens or U.S. residents.
- 1986** Immigration Reform and Control Act grants amnesty to millions of undocumented immigrants who entered the country before January 1, 1982.
- 2001** USA Patriot Act adds terrorist activities as a reason to exclude or deport aliens.
- 2012** Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) grants individuals who entered the U.S. as children, and meet certain criteria, temporary protection from deportation and eligibility for work permits.



“We hold these truths to be self-evident,
that all men are **CREATED EQUAL**, that
they are endowed by their Creator with
certain **UNALIENABLE RIGHTS**, that among
these are **LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT
OF HAPPINESS**. — That to secure these
rights, **GOVERNMENTS ARE INSTITUTED
AMONG MEN**, deriving their just powers
from the **CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED.**”

— Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

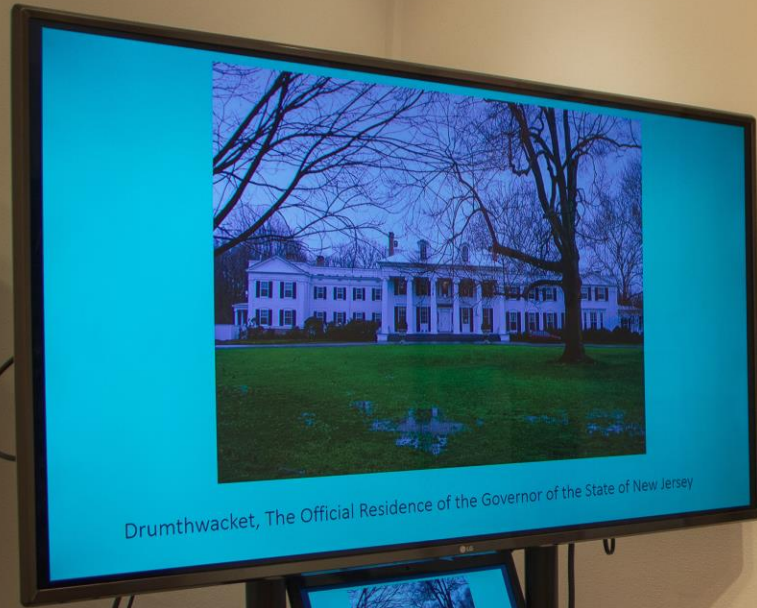








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Drumthwacket, The Official Residence of the Governor of the State of New Jersey



We the People

NJ Voters' Bill of Rights 1

- Voting Machine
- Requirements for Provisional Registered by Mail Only
- Provisional Ballot Voting

Declaración de los derechos de los votantes de Nueva Jersey 1

- Máquina de votación
- Requisitos de inscripción para provisional por correo
- Votación Provisional con boleto

NJ Voters' Bill of Rights 2

- Challenge Site & Ballot
- Challenge Process in Polling Place
- Election Offenses
- Absentee Voting in New Jersey

Declaración de los derechos de los votantes de Nueva Jersey 2

- Lo que debe y no debe hacer un observador electoral
- Cuestionar un proceso en el lugar de votación
- Delitos electorales
- Votación en ausencia en Nueva Jersey

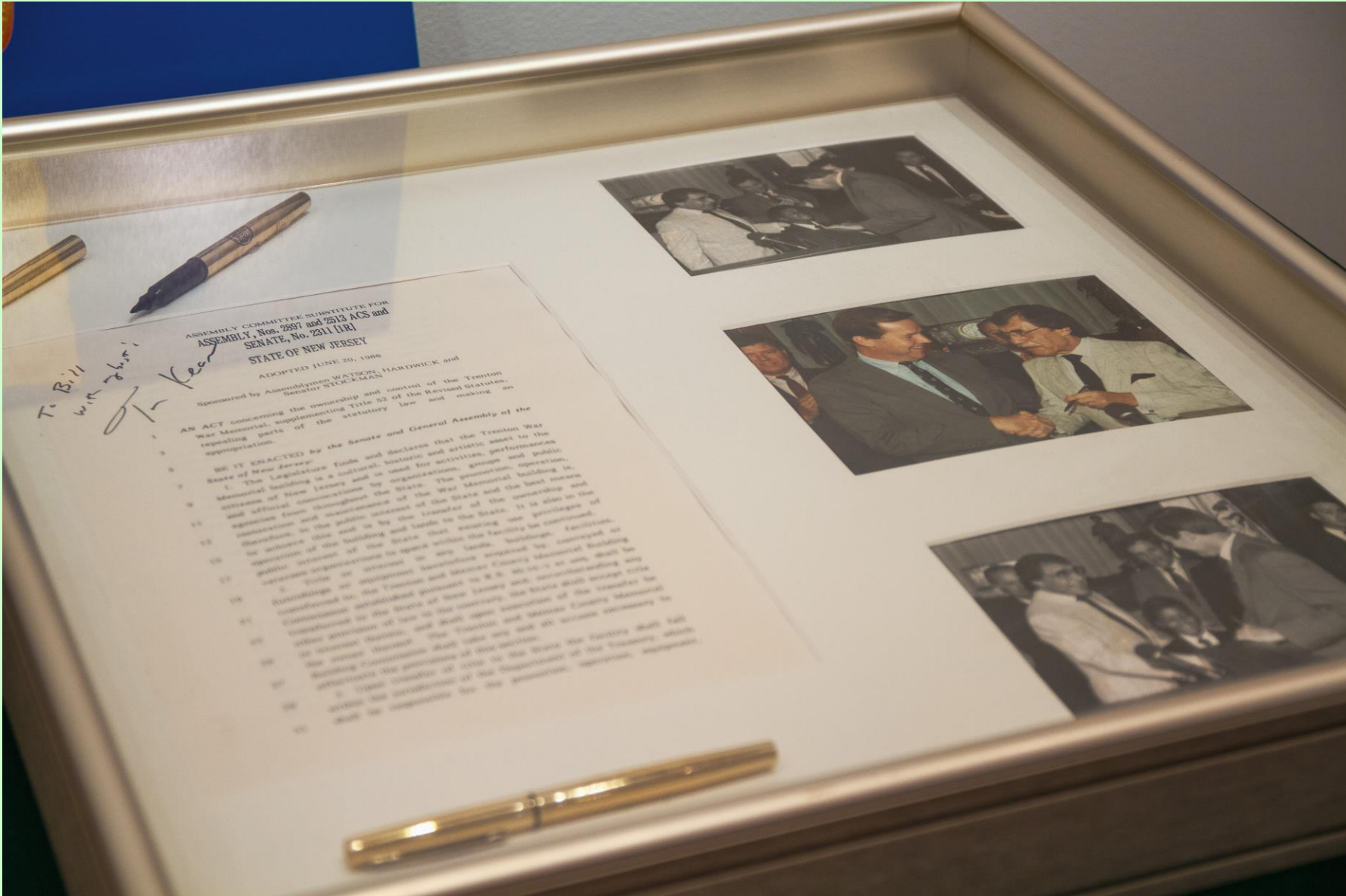




















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VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II

THIS LIBRARY IS DEDICATED TO OUR COMRADES
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
IN THE CAUSE OF HUMAN FREEDOM.

Trenton Post #156 Jewish War Veterans of the United States

Commemorati
American Dec
This piece shov
Washington on
first President
(1930) is locat
Mechanics Na



Commemorative Ashtray, c.1940s
American Decorators, Inc., Trenton

the reception given by the City of Trenton to General George Washington while he was enroute to New York for inauguration as President. The original painting of this scene by N.C. Wyeth was originally at the First

Ballot Box, c.1910
This ballot box was used by voters to place their ballot by placing it in the slot. The box would ring and the count



c. 1910
This box was used in Trenton, although it is unknown where. A voter would cast
a ballot by placing it in a small envelope in the top slot and turning the crank. A bell
would ring and the counter would advance when the ballot fell into the box.

This ballot box' handle may be turned gently

