



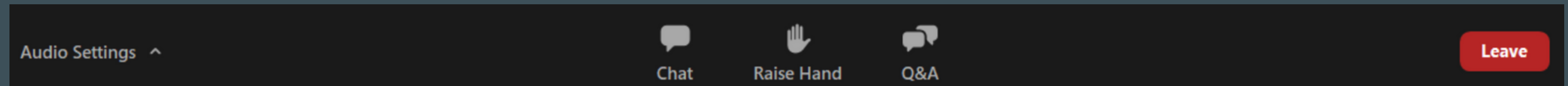
INSIDE THE VAULT

Twentieth-Century Voting Rights
with Dr. Barbara Perry

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2023



How to Participate



- If you would like to ask a question, you can use the Q&A feature.
- We will be answering audience questions throughout the session.
- The views expressed here are those of the historian.

For Security and Privacy

- Your microphone is automatically muted.
- Your camera is automatically turned off.



Barbara Perry



Barbara A. Perry is the Gerald L. Baliles Professor and Director of Presidential Studies at the University of Virginia's Miller Center, where she co-chairs the Presidential Oral History Program. She served as the Judicial Fellow at the U.S. Supreme Court and received the Justice Tom C. Clark Award as the outstanding fellow. Professor Perry has authored or edited seventeen books, including *Freedom and the Court: Civil Rights and Liberties in the United States* (2003), with Henry J. Abraham; *The Michigan Affirmative Action Cases* (2007); *Edward M. Kennedy: An Oral History* (2018); and *Unlikely Allies: How Eleanor Roosevelt and Jack Kennedy Brokered a Deal to Win the Presidency and Launch a New Era for Women's Rights* (forthcoming). Dr. Perry is a frequent commentator for national and international media and served as the lead expert for CNN's documentary *The Kennedys*.



Daniel Pecoraro



Daniel Pecoraro is a Senior Program Manager at the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Along with being the project lead for *The Right to Vote: The Role of States and the US Constitution*, he is responsible for the management of the Institute's online Teacher Seminars along with various other professional development programs. A proud alumnus of the New York City public school system from kindergarten through graduate school, he received his BA in History from the Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College and his MA in History from Hunter College.



Zoya Siddiqui



Zoya Siddiqui is a curatorial intern at the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. She is a senior majoring in history at New York University and is interested in American constitutional history during the twentieth century. She hopes to continue to pursue her passion for both history and constitutional law in the future.



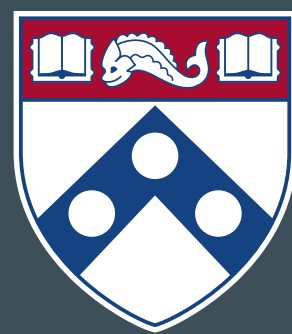


About The Right to Vote

A new suite of resources and programming for high school students, their teachers, and the general public

The Right to Vote:

The Role of States
and the US Constitution



Annenberg
PUBLIC POLICY CENTER
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

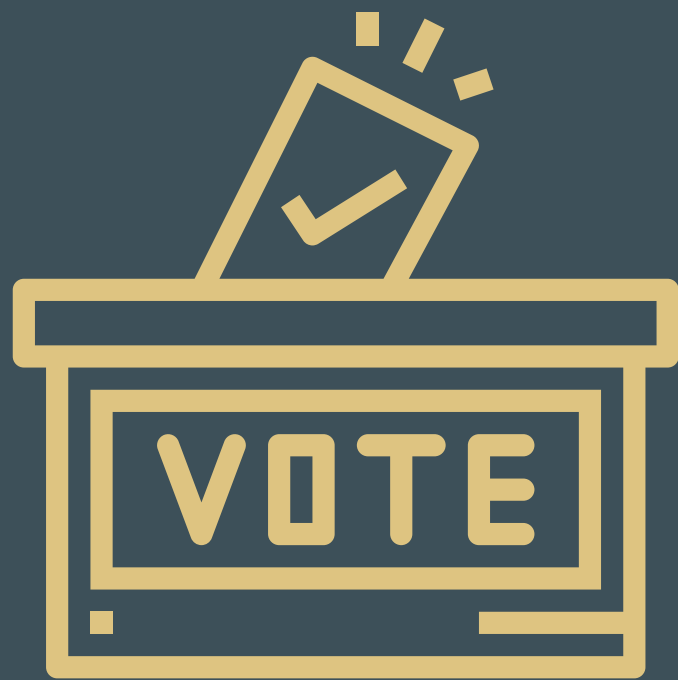




The Right to Vote:
The Role of States
and the US Constitution

Key Project Takeaways

- States primarily determine voting requirements.
- The right to vote is fundamental to representative democracy.
- Voting rights have expanded significantly since the Constitution was ratified in 1789.
- Throughout American history, people have fought to gain and keep the right to vote, while others have fought to limit its extension.



The Right to Vote:
The Role of States
and the US Constitution

Resource Suite:

gilderlehrman.org/right-to-vote

The Right to Vote Resource Suite



Essays

Read scholarly perspectives on the history of voting rights through essays geared to high school students

[Read Essays >](#)

Dese a la Mujer de California El Derecho de Votar VOTOS PARA LA MUJER

POR QUE

- POEQUE, la mujer debe obedecer la ley como el hombre.
Debe votar como el hombre.
- POEQUE, la mujer paga contribuciones como el hombre, sosteniendo así el gobierno.
Debe votar como el hombre.
- POEQUE, la mujer sufre por mal gobierno como el hombre.
Debe votar como el hombre.
- POEQUE, las madres quieren mejorar las condiciones de sus hijos.
Debe votar como el hombre.
- POEQUE, mas de 6,000,000 de mujeres en los Estados Unidos trabajan, y su salud así como la de nuestros futuros ciudadanos está con frecuencia en peligro con motivo de las malas condiciones de los talleres, que solo pueden ser remediadas por medio de la legislación.
Debe votar como el hombre.
- POEQUE, la mujer acomodada que trata de ayudar al bienestar del publico, podría sostener su opinión por medio de su voto.

Lesson Plans

Learn how individuals and groups attempted to expand access to the vote in "Taking a Stand for Voting Rights: Six States, Six Stories, One Goal."

[Browse Lesson Plans >](#)



Digital Exhibitions

Explore our four-part digital exhibition on the history of voting rights, which includes audiovisual elements and interactive maps

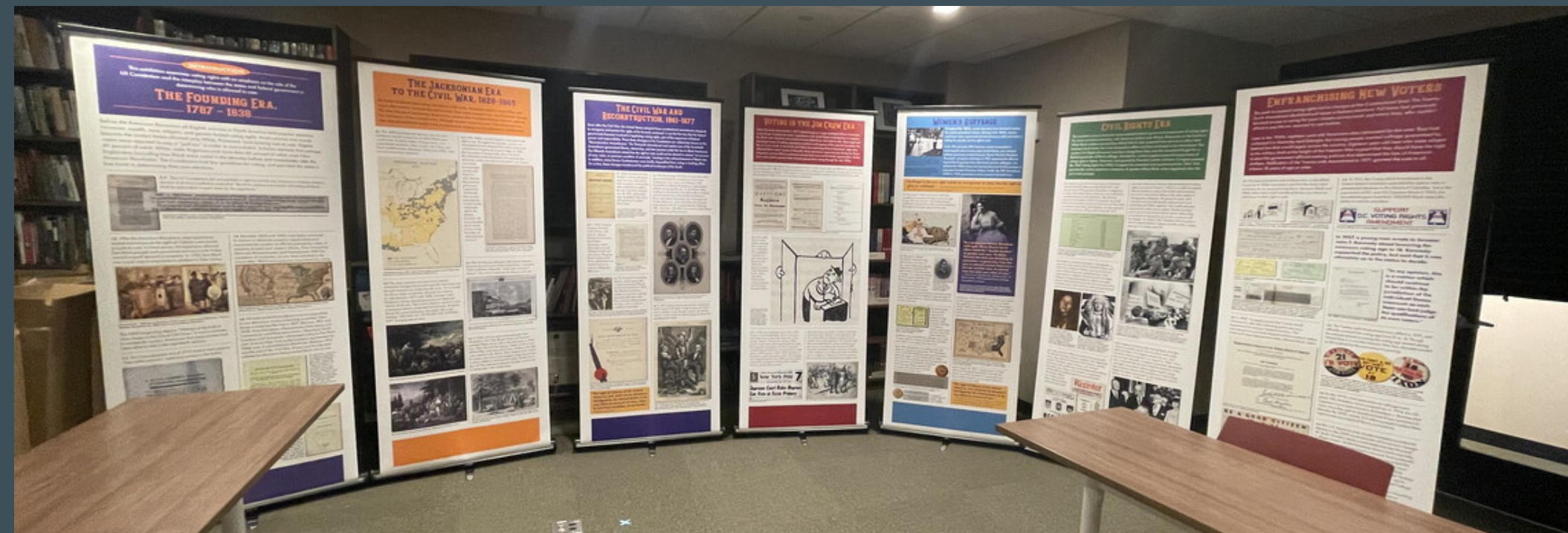
[Explore Digital Exhibitions >](#)



The Right to Vote:
The Role of States
and the US Constitution

Resource Suite

- *Who Can Vote? A Brief History of Voting Rights in the US*, a new seven-panel exhibition on the history of voting rights from the founding era to the twenty-first century
 - Apply to host the exhibition for free at gilderlehrman.org/whocanvoteapp





The Right to Vote:
The Role of States
and the US Constitution

Special Events

Voting Rights Forum

Friday, September 15 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
ET

As a culmination of *The Right to Vote: The Role of States and the US Constitution* and in celebration of Constitution Day, the Gilder Lehrman Institute will host a Voting Rights Forum at Stuyvesant High School in New York, streaming live around the world via Zoom Webinars. Join an array of scholars and policy makers, learn more about the history of states' roles in choosing who gets to vote, and gain a greater understanding of contemporary issues concerning voting and federalism.

[Learn more >](#)



Sign up for livestream at
gilderlehrman.org/votingrightslivestream



Today's Documents



CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES
ARTICLE XV. SECTION I. 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 race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

QUESTIONS

That Must Be Answered In Order To

Register

In The

State Of Mississippi

DO NOT Carry This Pamphlet With You When You Go To
The Court House To Register

If You Have Registered Any Time In The Past In The Old Books Yo DO NOT Have To Register Anymore. Only The Persons Who Have NEVER Registered Before Will Have To Answer These Questions.

For Further Information Write

Washington County Democratic Club
Drawer 3008 Greenville, Miss.



JOHN F. KENNEDY
MASSACHUSETTS

COMMITTEES:
FOREIGN RELATIONS
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 14, 1957

Mr. Robert D. Moran
President
Young Republican Club of Springfield
1387 Main Street
Springfield 3, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Moran:

This will acknowledge and thank you for your letter of recent date with respect to the question of whether the minimum voting age should be lowered to eighteen.

In my opinion, this is a matter which should continue to be within the jurisdiction of the individual States, inasmuch as each State can best judge the qualifications of its own voters. It is not always easy, of course, to set standards and I personally have come in contact with many young people below the age of twenty-one who would be as well qualified now to consider the merits of the various candidates for public office as they would be a few years later.

I appreciate your interest in writing to me on this matter. Please be assured that your views on legislative questions are always welcome.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,
John F. Kennedy
John F. Kennedy

JFK:def

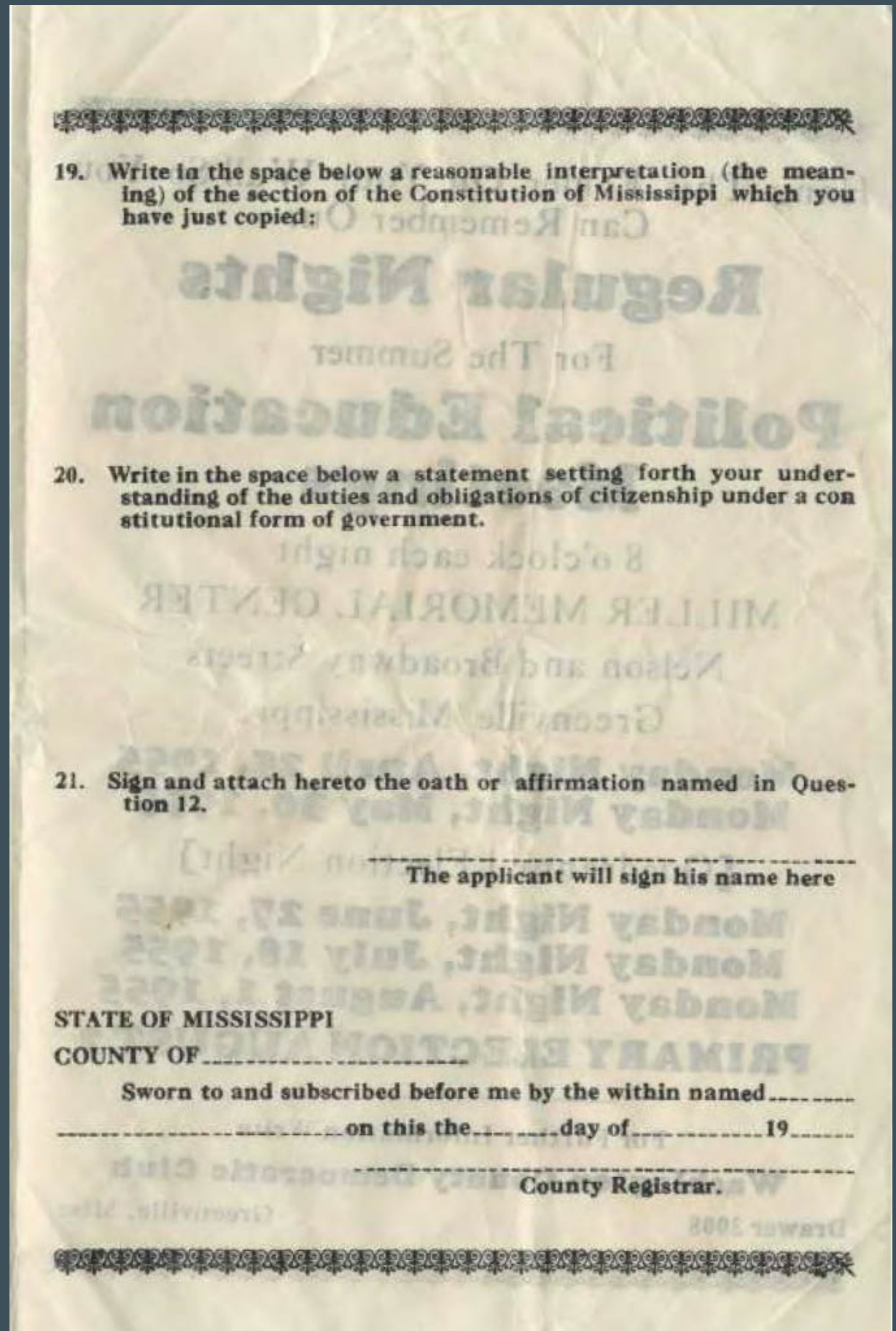
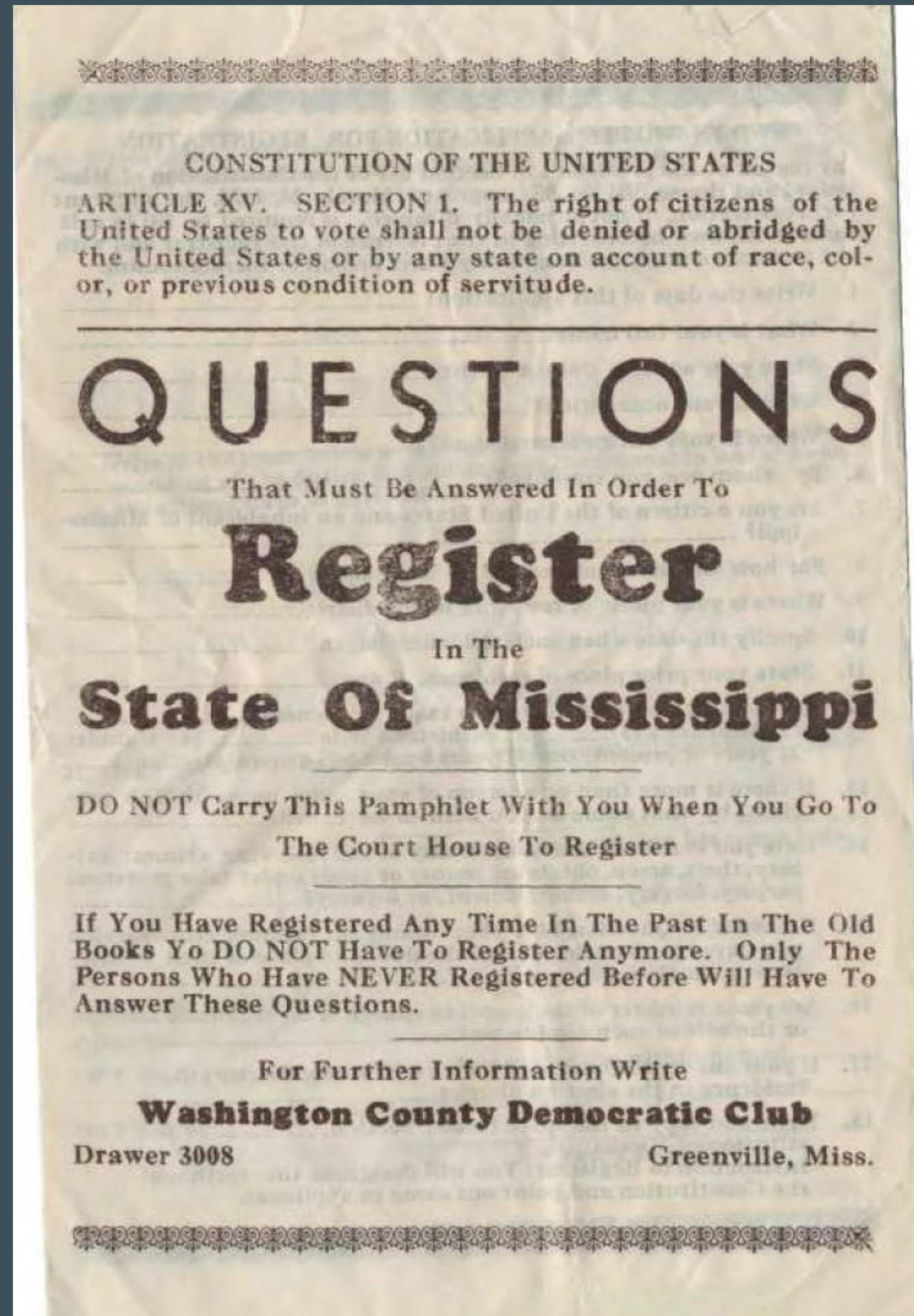
Literacy test questions & voting rights materials, March 1955
(Civil Rights Movement Archive)

National Equipment Co. pin, ca. 1900
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC09764)

John F. Kennedy to Robert D. Moran, May 14, 1957
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC09784)

Literacy test questions & voting rights materials

March 1955

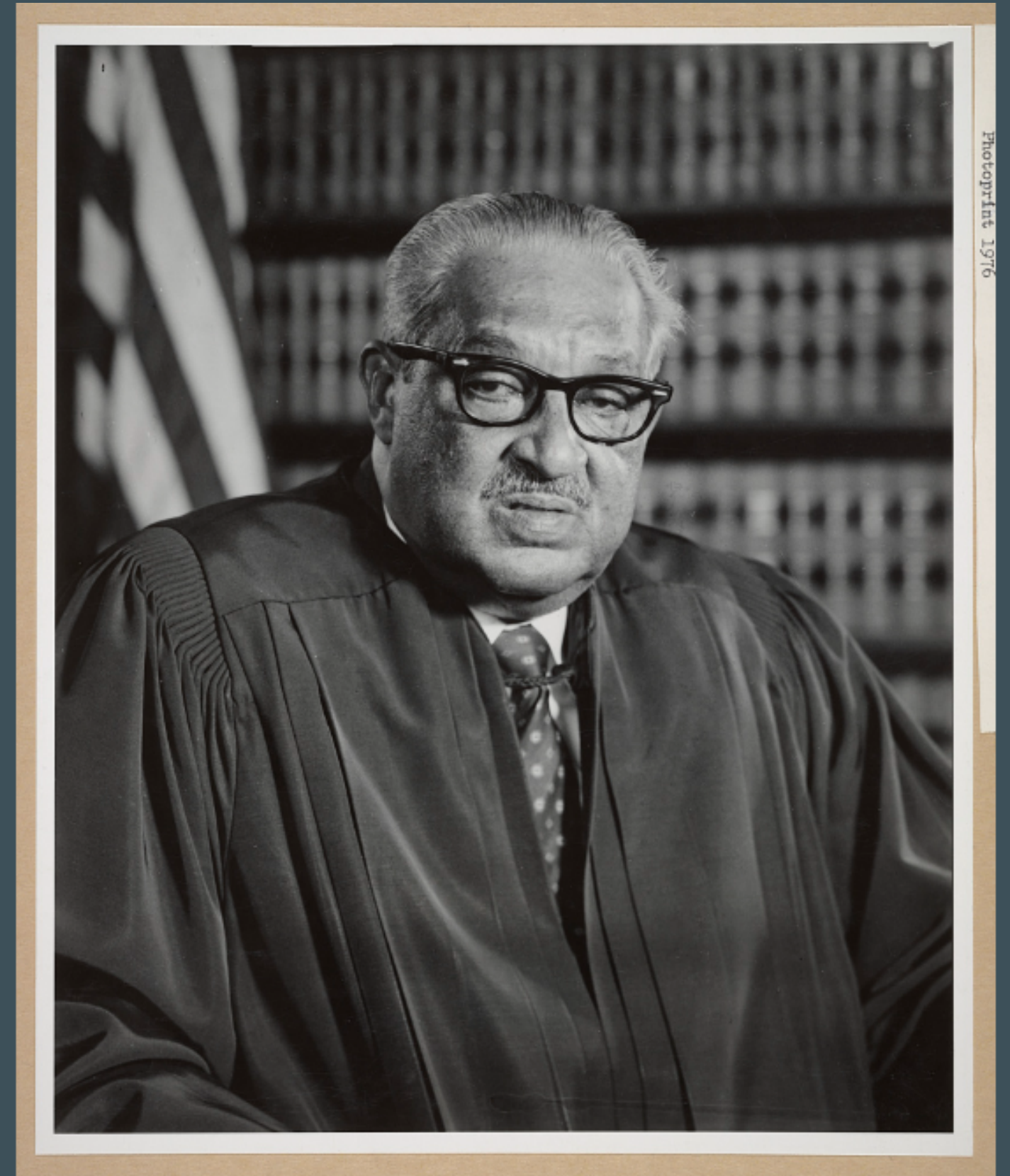


Literacy test questions & voting rights materials, March 1955 (Civil Rights Movement Archive)



Thurgood Marshall

January 28, 1976



Official portraits of the 1976 U.S. Supreme Court:

Justice Thurgood Marshall, January 28, 1976

(Library of Congress)



"The Awakening"

February 20, 1915



The Awakening, February 20, 1915
(Library of Congress)



Vote "Yes"

November 3, 1914

VOTE "YES"

BECAUSE

The power to levy taxes above the present rates is taken from the hands of the officials who spend the taxes and placed in **the hands of the people who pay the taxes.**

The tax rate **on any class of property** for all general purposes **can never exceed ten mills** unless the people by a majority vote authorize an increase **for a specific purpose.**

Property is divided into three classes—real estate, tangible personal and intangible personal. The legislature is authorized to fix the rates **inside the ten mill limitation.** The rate on any class of property **cannot be more** than ten mills.

The legislature may exempt mortgages from taxation, thus abolishing one form of **double taxation.**

FAC-SIMILE BALLOT SEPARATE BALLOT, ELECTION NOVEMBER 3, 1914

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	ARTICLE XV, SECTION 9a Home Rule on the Subject of Intoxicating Liquors.
<input type="checkbox"/>	No	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	ARTICLE XII, SECTIONS 1 AND 2 Limitation of the Tax Rate and for the Classification of Pro- perty for Purposes of Taxation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	ARTICLE V, SECTION 1 To Extend the Suffrage to Women.
<input type="checkbox"/>	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	ARTICLE XV, SECTION 9 Prohibition of the Sale, Manu- facture for Sale and Importa- tion for Sale of Intoxicating Liquor as a Beverage.
<input type="checkbox"/>	No	



Vote "Yes," November 3, 1914

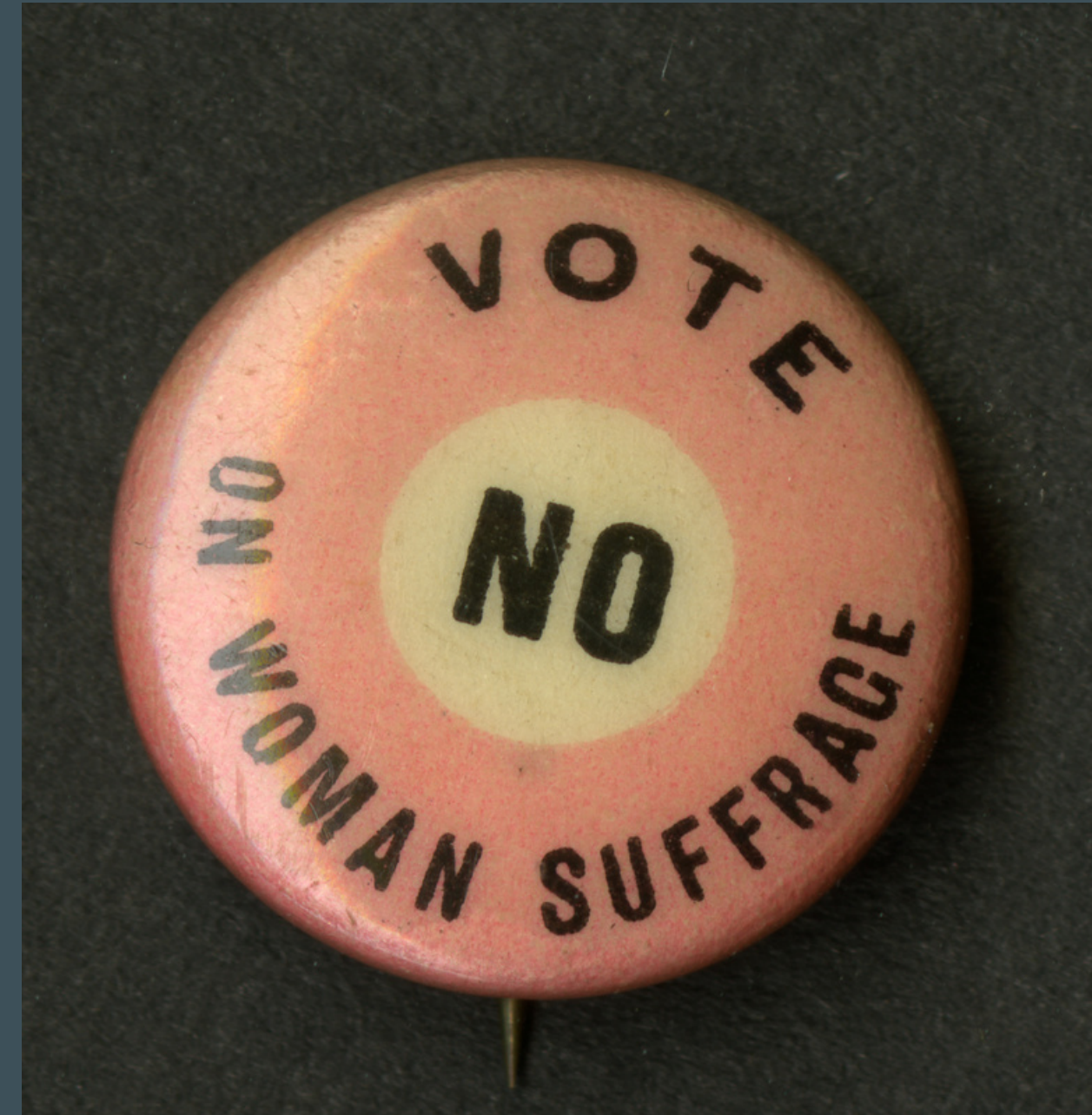
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC10091)

Women's Suffrage Pins

ca. 1900



National Equipment Co. pin, ca. 1900
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC09764)



Pin opposed to woman suffrage, ca. 1900
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC10090)

“A Colored Woman in a White World”

1940

“A white woman has only one handicap to overcome—that of sex. I have two—both sex and race. I belong to the only group in this country which has two such huge obstacles to surmount. Colored men have only one—that of race.”

Mary Church Terrell, *A Colored Woman in a White World*, 1940

Mary Church Terrell, ca. 1880
(Library of Congress)



Joint Resolution of Congress

June 4, 1919

“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.”

Joint Resolution of Congress proposing a constitutional amendment extending the right of suffrage to women, approved June 4, 1919 (National Archives)

Sixty-sixth Congress of the United States of America;

At the First Session,

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the nineteenth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and nineteen.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution extending the right of suffrage to women.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States.

“ARTICLE _____.

“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.

“Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

F. H. Lister

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Thos. R. Marshall

*Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.*



The Literary Digest 1928

The Snyder Act was passed in 1924 and granted citizenship to more than 100,000 Indigenous Americans. In 1928, the *Literary Digest* published an article detailing the population of Indigenous peoples in different states to highlight the law's impact.

In census figures for 1920 we find the following States having an Indian population exceeding 4,500:

Oklahoma	57,337
Arizona	32,989
New Mexico	19,512
California	17,310
South Dakota	16,384
North Carolina	11,824
Montana	10,956
Wisconsin	9,611
Washington	9,061
Minnesota	8,761
North Dakota	6,254
Michigan	5,614
New York	5,503
Nevada	4,907
Oregon	4,590

The Literary Digest 98, No. 12, September 22, 1928
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC10083)



Protests in Selma

1965



Associated Press, *Charge*, March 8, 1965
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC09734.05)



Associated Press, *Whites Join Negro Protest*, March 6, 1965
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC09734.03)

President Lyndon Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act

August 6, 1965



Associated Press, *President Lyndon Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act, August 6, 1965.*

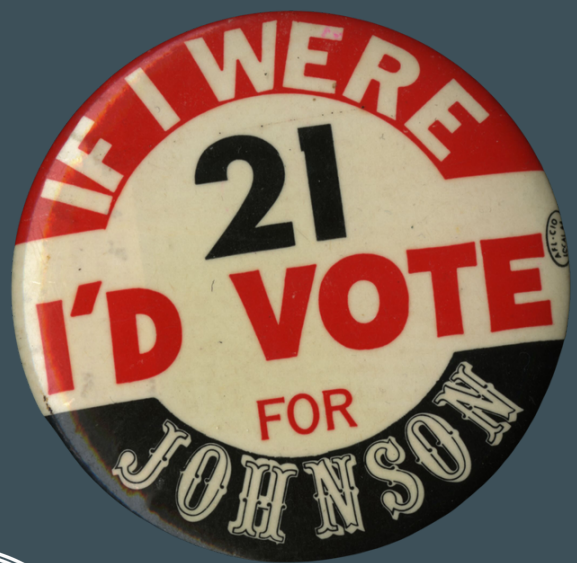
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC09752)



John F. Kennedy to Robert D. Moran

May 14, 1957

“In my opinion, this is a matter which should continue to be within the jurisdiction of the individual States, inasmuch as each State can best judge the qualifications of its own voters.”

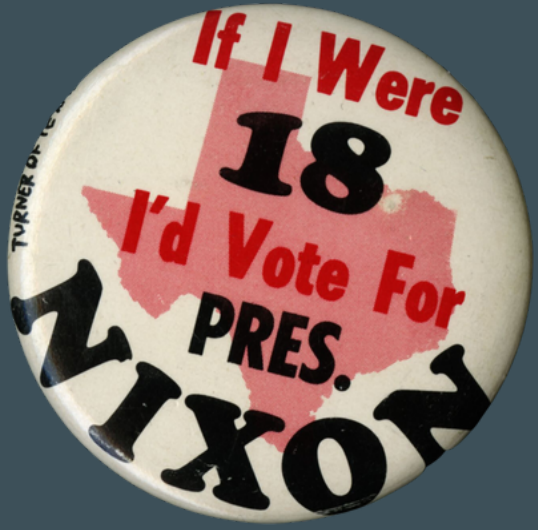


“If I Were 21 I'd Vote for Johnson,” 1964

(The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC09750)



“You Fight & Die But Can't Vote at 18,” n.d. (The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC09915)



“If I Were 18 I'd Vote for Pres. Nixon,” 1972 (The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC09749)



John F. Kennedy to Robert D. Moran, May 14, 1957 (The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC09784)

JOHN F. KENNEDY
MASSACHUSETTS

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With every good wish,

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JFK:def

Upcoming Programs

WHO CAN VOTE EXHIBITION

- If you liked this program and are interested in hosting the exhibition, apply at <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/whocanvoteapp>.
 - We are especially looking for venues to host from November 27 - January 5th.
 - Apply by September 25th to be considered for this time slot!

THE RIGHT TO VOTE: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

- October 11, 8:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m. ET
- October 14, 2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. ET
 - Prof. Bertrall Ross (University of Virginia) and Patience LeBlanc (2017 Texas History Teacher of the Year) will discuss the history of voting rights.



Upcoming Programs

INSIDE THE VAULT: September 7 at 7 p.m. ET (4 p.m. PT)

- We will be joined by Dr. Eliga Gould (University of New Hampshire) to discuss materials related to the Treaty of Paris of 1783.

BOOK BREAKS: August 6 at 2 p.m. ET (11 a.m. PT)

- Claire Rydell Arcenas will discuss her book *America's Philosopher: John Locke in American Intellectual Life*.

MA IN AMERICAN HISTORY

- Sign up for The Kennedy Era with Professor Barbara Perry on offer during the fall 2023 semester of the Gettysburg College–Gilder Lehrman MA in American History.

- Applications are open year round, click here to begin your application:
<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/programs-and-events/ma-american-history/apply>.

