

# WHAT IS THE **VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965**

AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN TODAY



# What is the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and What Does it Mean Today?



The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is a US Federal law that stops people from being treated unfairly because of their race when it comes to voting. It was created to enforce the protections in the 15th Amendment, which states that the government cannot deny someone the right to vote based on their race.

This act ended practices such as requiring a test for reading and writing before being allowed to vote. It helped increase voter registration and participation across the country. It also included a fair approach to redistricting and the election of many candidates of color.

Today, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 still protects people from unfair voting practices. However, some recent Supreme Court decisions may have challenged some of those protections, such as states' ability to change voting laws without approval from the Federal Government.

## Discussion Question:

Do you think recent Supreme Court rulings have weakened or strengthened the Voting Rights Act?

Source: [www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/voting-rights-act](http://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/voting-rights-act)

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