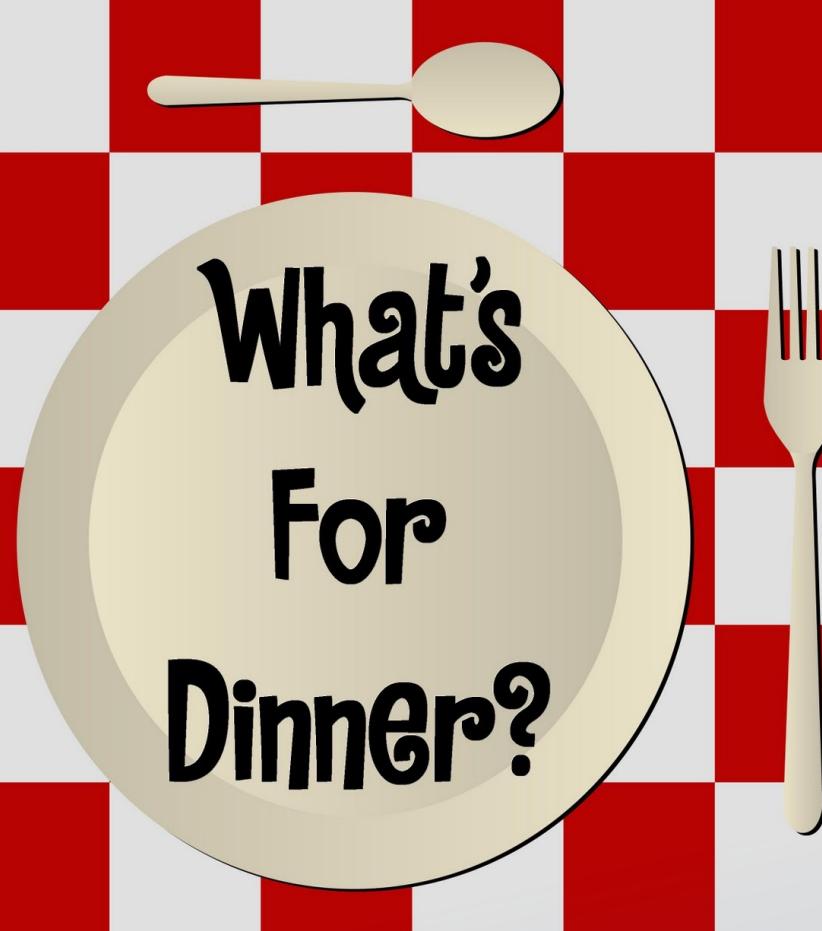


**3rd Annual  
Visual Arts Competition**

# What is Voting?





Ways we “vote” in our everyday lives

# Who can vote?

All citizens over the age of 18  
can and **SHOULD** vote



# Who is a citizen?

Anyone born in the United States or;

Anyone who has at least one parent who is a citizen or;

Anyone who is a naturalized citizen

# What does it mean to 'naturalize'?

- ✓ Immigrants to the United States can become citizens but it is hard
  - ✓ Forms
  - ✓ Fees
  - ✓ Interview with citizenship test
    - ✓ Civics test on American Government and History
    - ✓ Basic English test demonstrating the ability to read, write, and speak

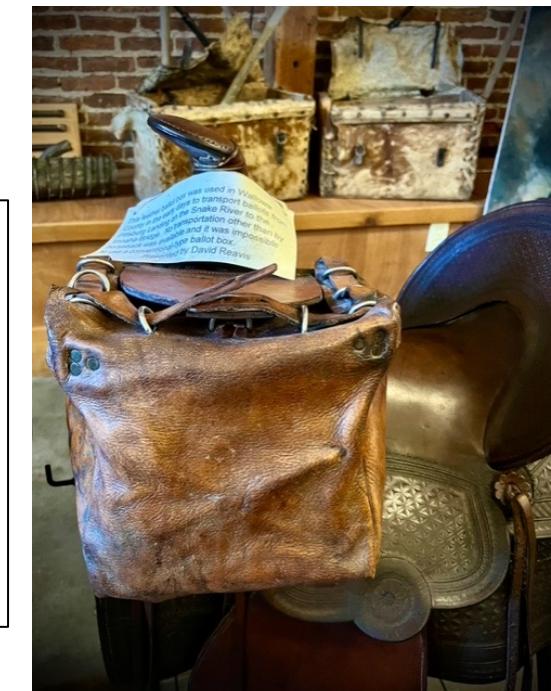


# The Civics Test:

- What is the supreme law of the land?
  - *The US Constitution*
- How many amendments does the Constitution have?
  - 27
- When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
  - 4 July 1776
- Who was the first President?
  - *George Washington*
- How many stars are on the US flag and what do they stand for?
  - *50, one for each state*

# Is voting the same in every state?

- The writers, or “framers”, of the Constitution did not write the word “voting” anywhere!
  - *The Constitution originally left the decisions about who gets to vote and how that voting will happen up to each individual state*
- That means that today, there are fifty different ways that elections are conducted!
- The Good:
  - *The complexity of having 50 different systems means that it is very difficult to steal an election!*
  - *Five states, including Washington, use all mail-in voting*
- The Bad:
  - *Unlike Washington State, in states where voting is not by mail, state laws can make it more difficult for voters without transportation to go and vote in person*





## Elections for federal office

Elections for federal offices are usually held in even-numbered years.

Presidents and vice presidents are elected every 4 years. In the U.S. Congress, senators are elected every 6 years and representatives are elected every 2 years.

PRESIDENT  
VICE PRESIDENT

U.S. CONGRESS

REPRESENTATIVE  
SENATOR

# What offices do we vote for?

U.S. President  
U.S. Vice President  
Elected every

4 years

U.S. House of Representatives  
All 435 representatives elected every

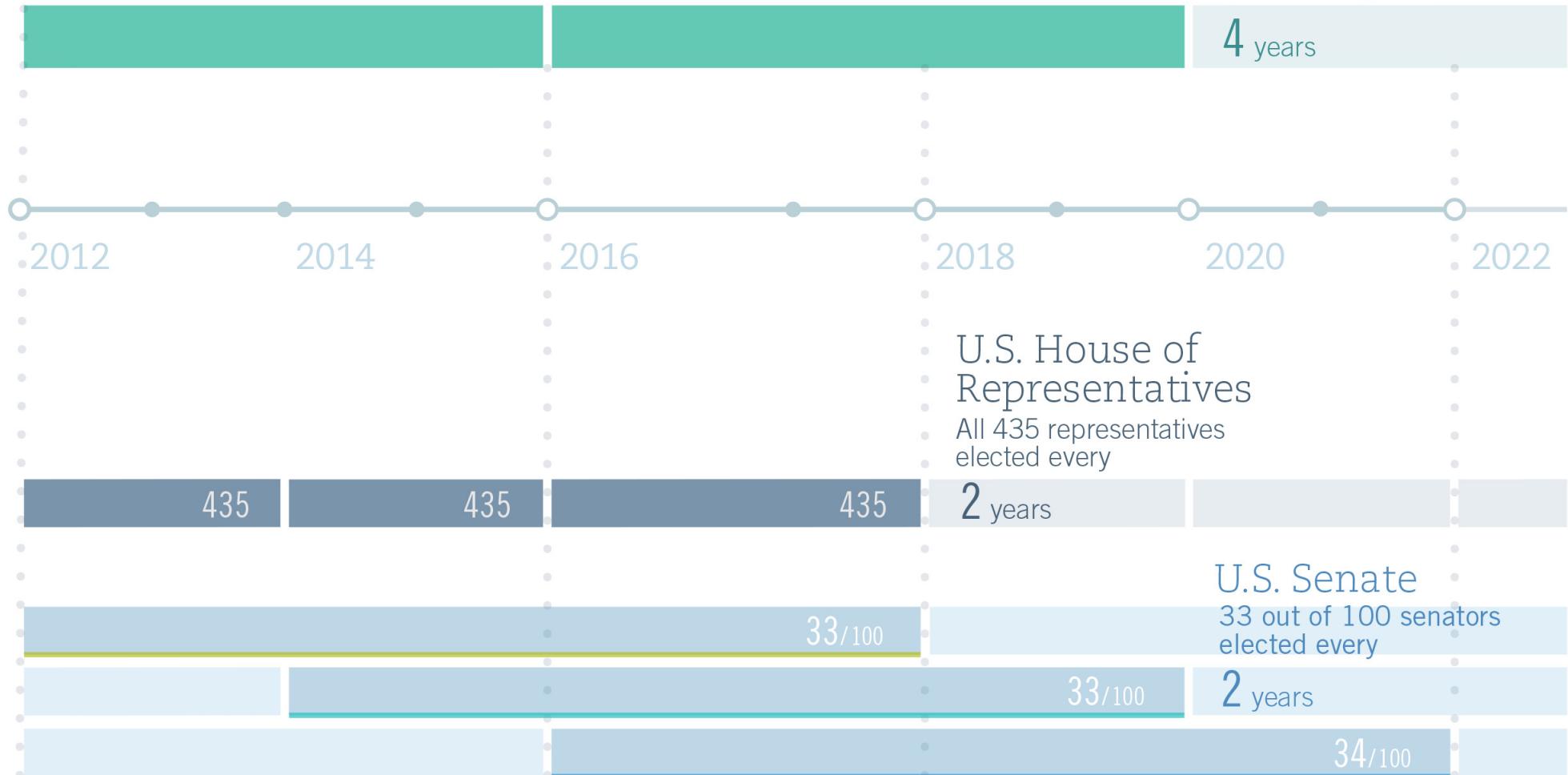
2 years

U.S. Senate

33 out of 100 senators elected every

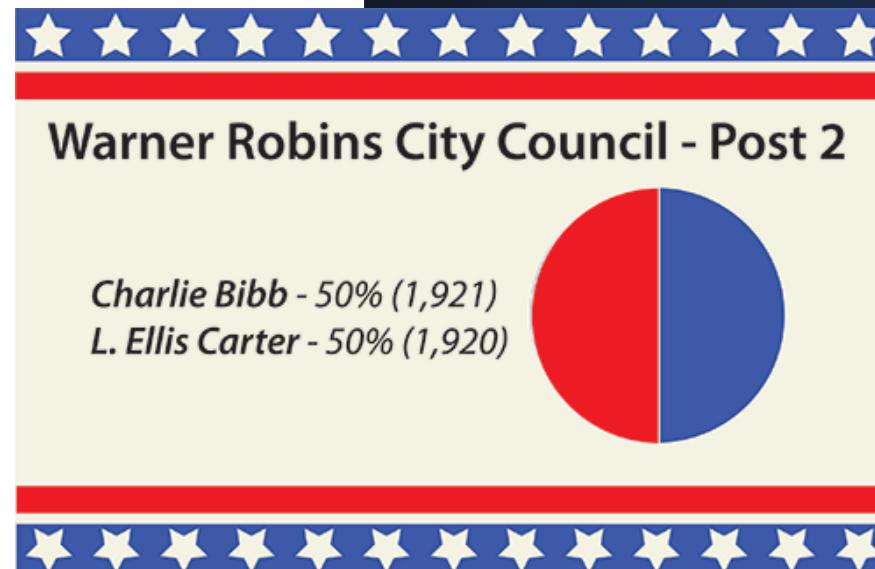
2 years

34/100



Even though every eligible voter should vote, not everyone does...

- One of the most common excuses is, “My vote doesn’t count so why bother?”
  - *HOWEVER: last year (2023) in Endicott, one of the town council positions was decided by only THREE votes!*
- Historically, the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment (giving women the right to vote) was ratified in Tennessee (the last state needed to make it a national law) by ONE vote!



# What do you need to do to vote?

- Register
  - In Washington, when you get your driver's license at 16, you will be asked if you want to register to vote—easy!
  - Thus, you can “pre-register” meaning before you are 18 years old, and then vote once you are old enough



# Pay Attention!

- The signature you put on your driver's license follows you throughout your life when you register electronically
  - If you need to update your voter registration, you can do so at [www.voteWA.gov](http://www.voteWA.gov)
- That signature is how the voting system ensures that your ballot is really yours
  - The main reason that ballots are rejected is because of a mismatch between your signature on the ballot and your signature in the electronic system
  - The election office will contact you if your ballot is rejected so that you can fix or "cure" it



Sign  
and  
Drop!

# How do we vote in Washington?

## Vote by mail

- No stamp needed!
- 18 days to turn in your ballot!
- Your ballot arrives in the mail & has three parts:
  - The ballot
  - The security envelope
  - And the return envelope

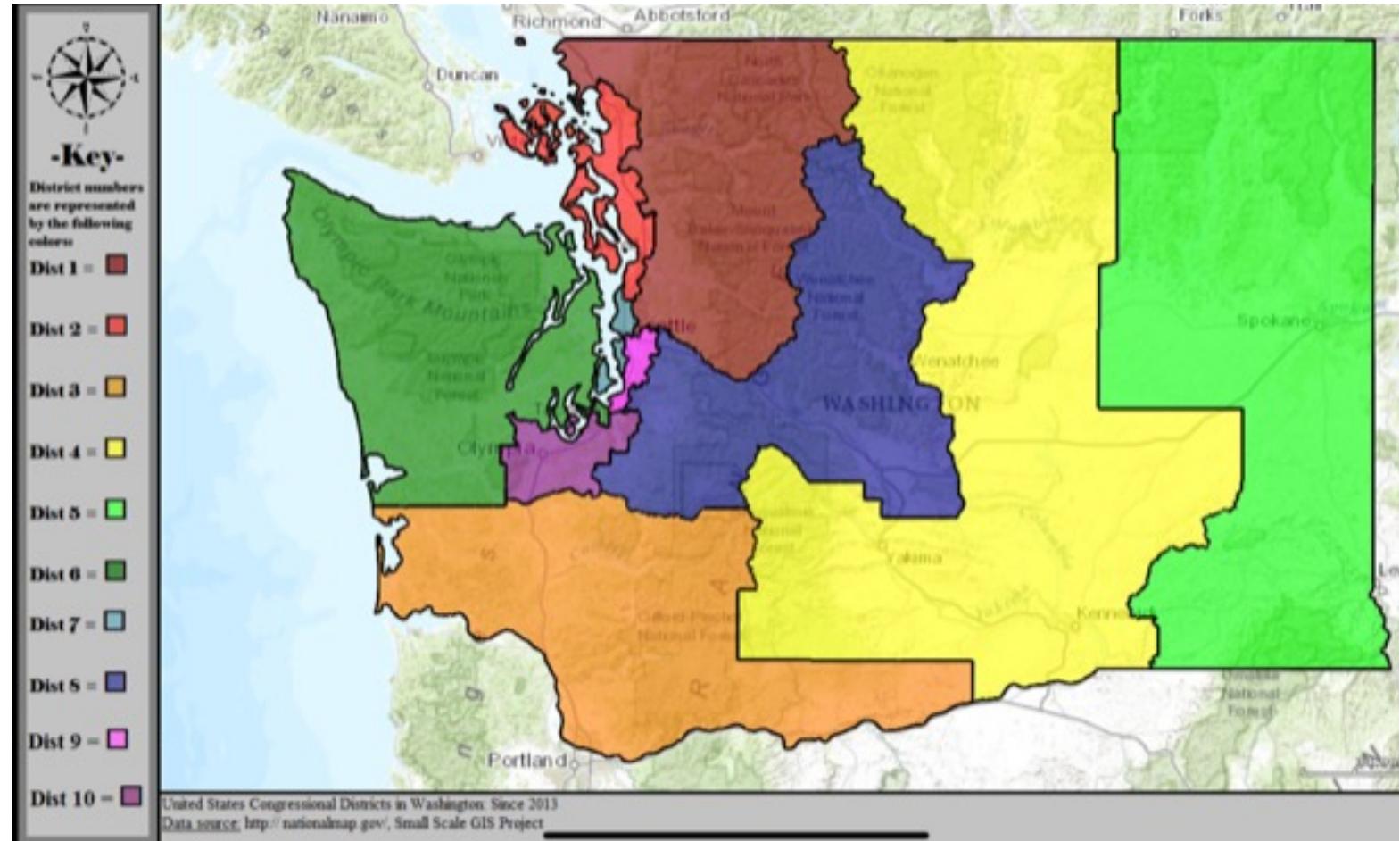
**TRACK YOUR BALLOT:**

<https://www.myvote.wa.gov>



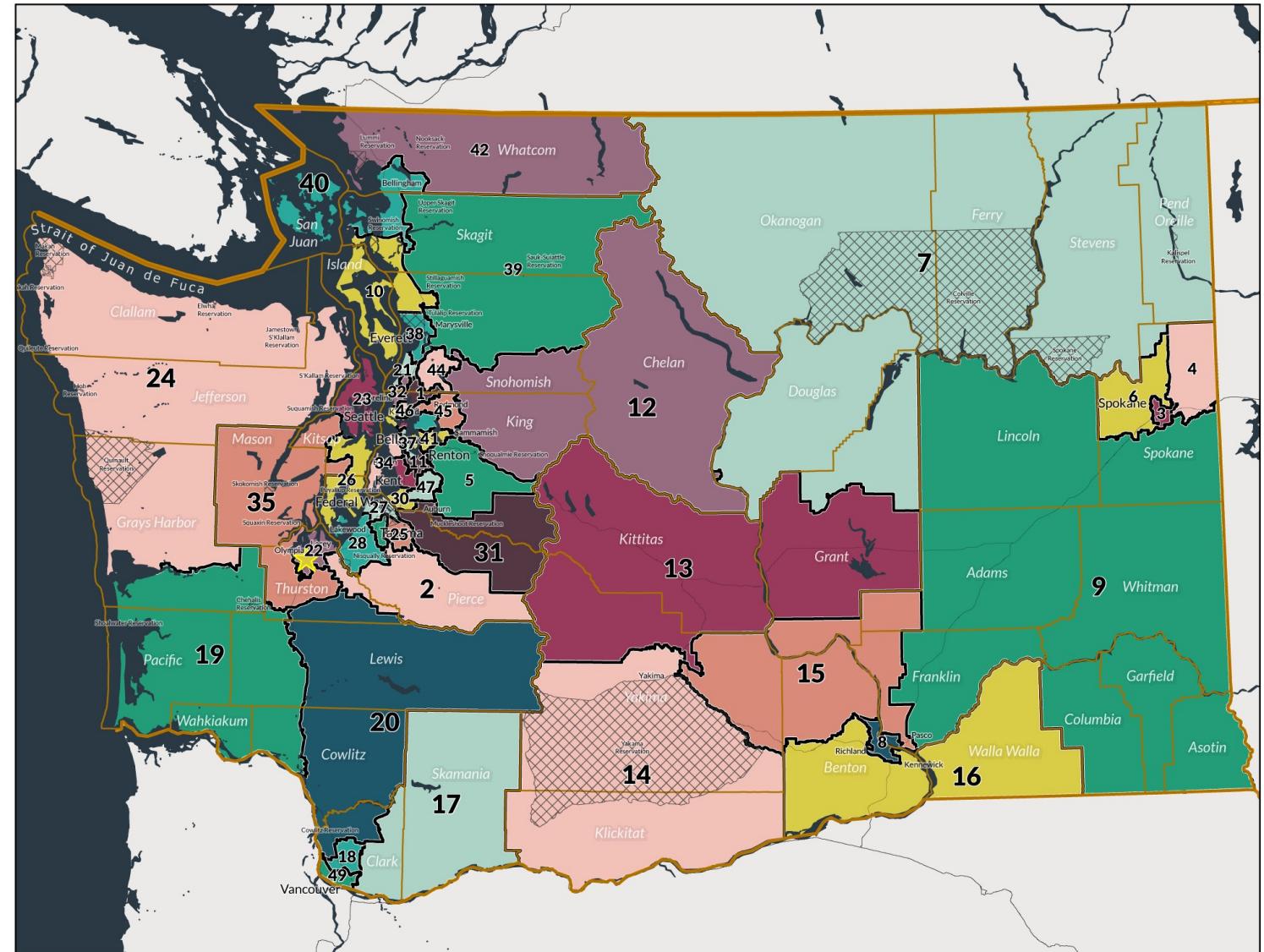
# What is on a ballot?

- We can vote at the Federal Level:
  - President
  - 2 Senators
  - 1 Representative (1 of 10 for the State of WA)
    - Whitman County is in District 5



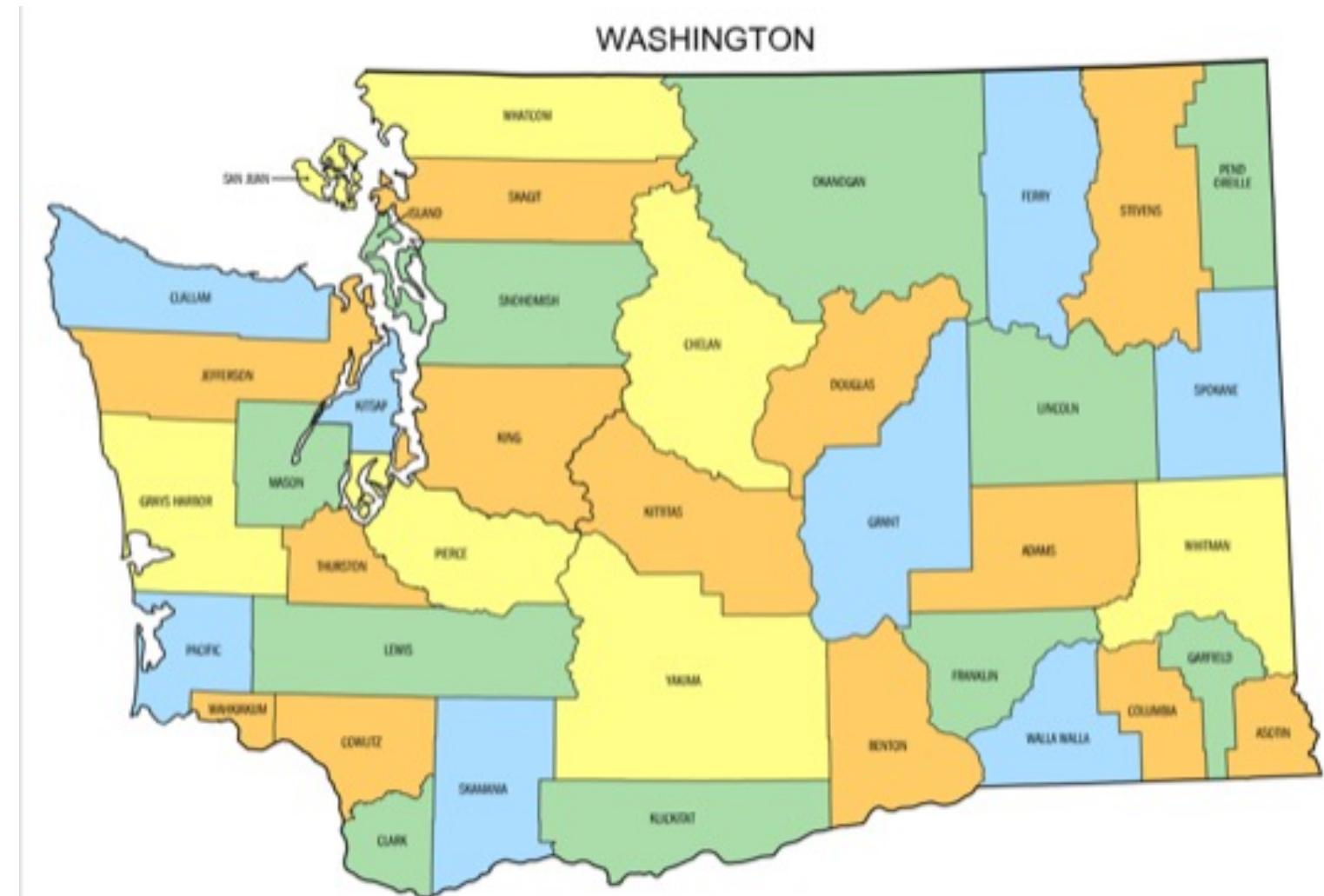
# What is on a ballot?

- We can vote at the:  
State Level
    - Executive branch (9 offices)
    - legislative branch (1 Senator and 2 Representatives for each district)
      - Whitman County is in District 9 out of 49 districts in the state



# What is on a ballot?

- **We can vote at the:**  
Local Level
  - Local government  
(County officials, City Council, Mayors, School Board, and other Boards)



What ELSE is  
on a ballot?

- We can vote for special rules:
  - *Initiatives*
  - *Referendums*
- We can vote in Special Elections:
  - *Levies*
  - *Bonds*



## LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL

SCIENCE LABORATORY ADDITION

SCIENCE LAB RENOVATIONS

OFFICE & SCHOOL SECURITY RENOVATIONS

SECURITY VESTIBULE ADDITION

COMMONS & STAGE RENOVATIONS

COUNSELING & SPECIAL SERVICES

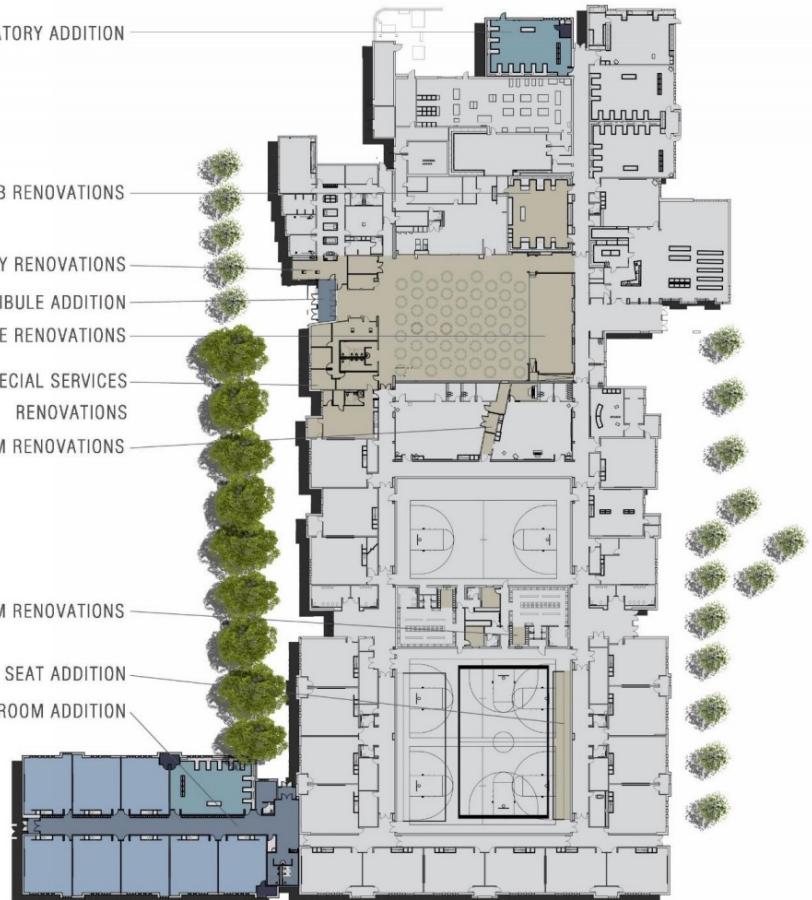
RENOVATIONS

MUSIC PROGRAM RENOVATIONS

LOCKER ROOM RENOVATIONS

290 BLEACHER SEAT ADDITION

CLASSROOM ADDITION



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

## Article I

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 1. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have their Qualifications exactly the same as those of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not be an actual inhabitant of one of the States, and citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes, shall be apportioned among the several States, which may be included in this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every forty Thousand, and each State shall have at least one Representative, and such and no more number shall be allowed, so that the Number of Representatives shall be entitled to have three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations one and a half, New York one, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland two, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election by the said Powers.

The House of Representatives shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section 2. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators, from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof for six Years, and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be ascertained, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes, the Seats of which in the Senate of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the term next following the first Year, of the second, at the Expiration of the second Year, and of the third, at the Expiration of the third Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; and if vacancies happen by Removal, Resignation, or Death, during the Term of any Senator, the Executive Authority may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies.

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and an inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote.

The Senate shall have other Officers, and a Seal, and a President pro tempore, who shall be the President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, the Chief Justice shall preside, but no Member shall be admitted without his Consent. Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than removal from Office, and Disgrace, and the United States shall be thereby exonerated, shall nevertheless be liable and subject according to Law.

Section 4. The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in the Constitution by Law made in pursuance thereof, and the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, as to the Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, which shall be in the first Monday in December, and on a different Day.

Section 5. Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections and Qualifications of its own Members, to do Business, but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to adjourn with Mallet, and end it with Praying, as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may be necessary to be secret; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall be put at the Desire of any fifth of the Members of either House during the Session of Congress, shall, and the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, unless



# The Federal Government—The history of the vote

# The Constitution Gives to The Separate States Control over The Vote...

- Article I Legislative Branch
- Section 4 Congress
- Clause 1 Elections Clause
- The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of choosing Senators.





Who could vote?  
*Only 6% of the population*

- 
- White, male, property owners, who pay taxes on that property...

Except in  
New Jersey,  
Connecticut, and  
Pennsylvania where  
free black men could  
vote.





But that  
didn't last...  
*New Jersey  
and  
Pennsylvania  
changed  
their minds  
between  
1792--1838*

1792-1856: Property ownership no longer needed

Thanks to the removal of the property ownership requirement, in the Presidential election of 1840:

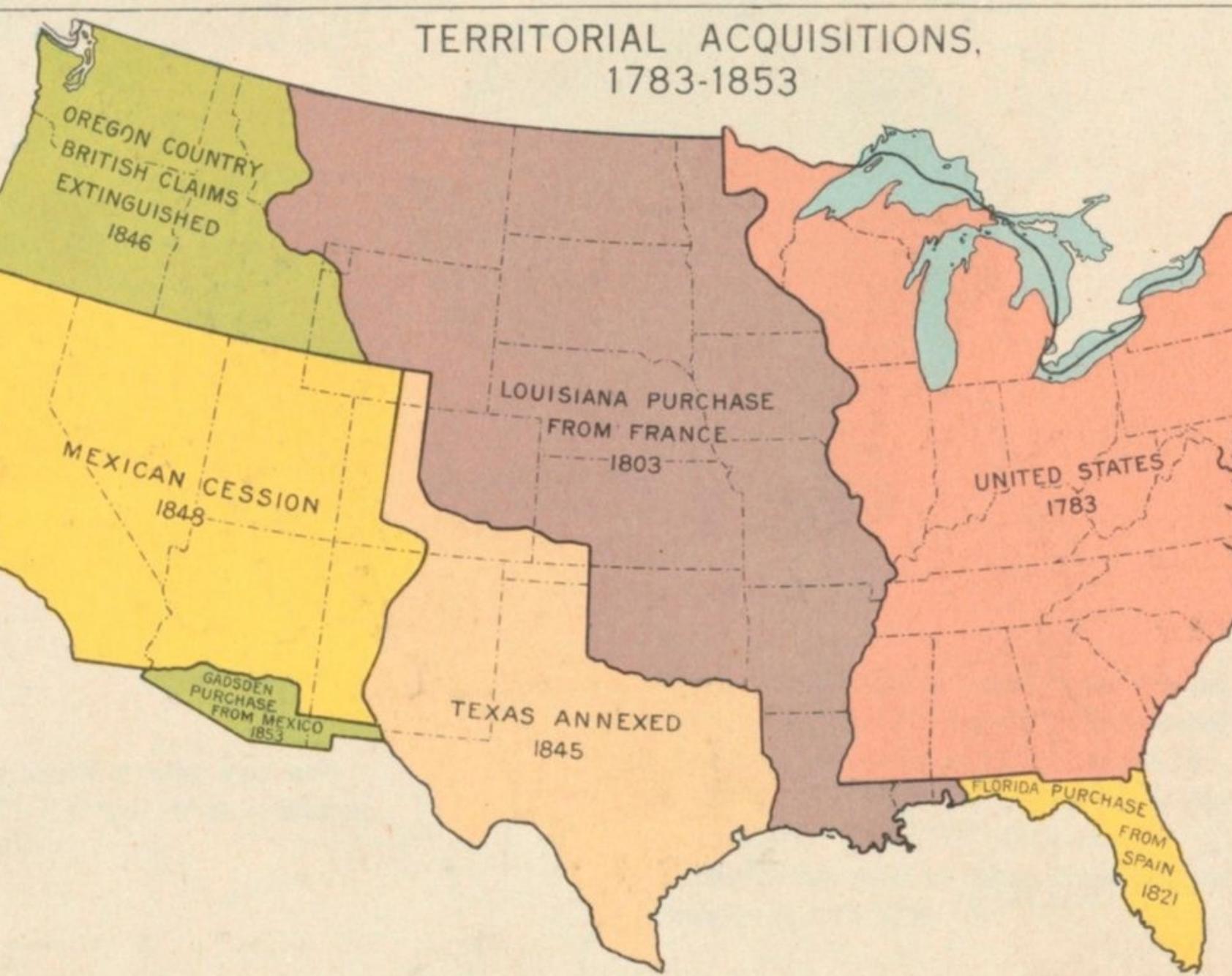
80% of white men in the country voted!



# The Civil War Amendments: 1865-1870

- 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment Abolition of Slavery
- 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment Equal Protection of the Law, Natural Born Citizenship
- 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment Black men to vote





# Westward Expansion

1869–1917

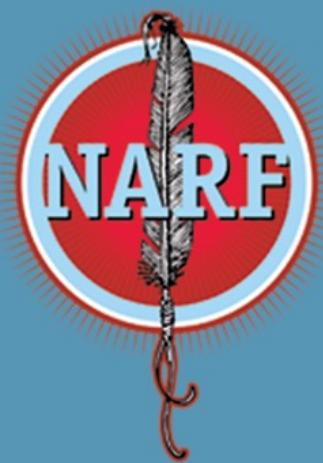
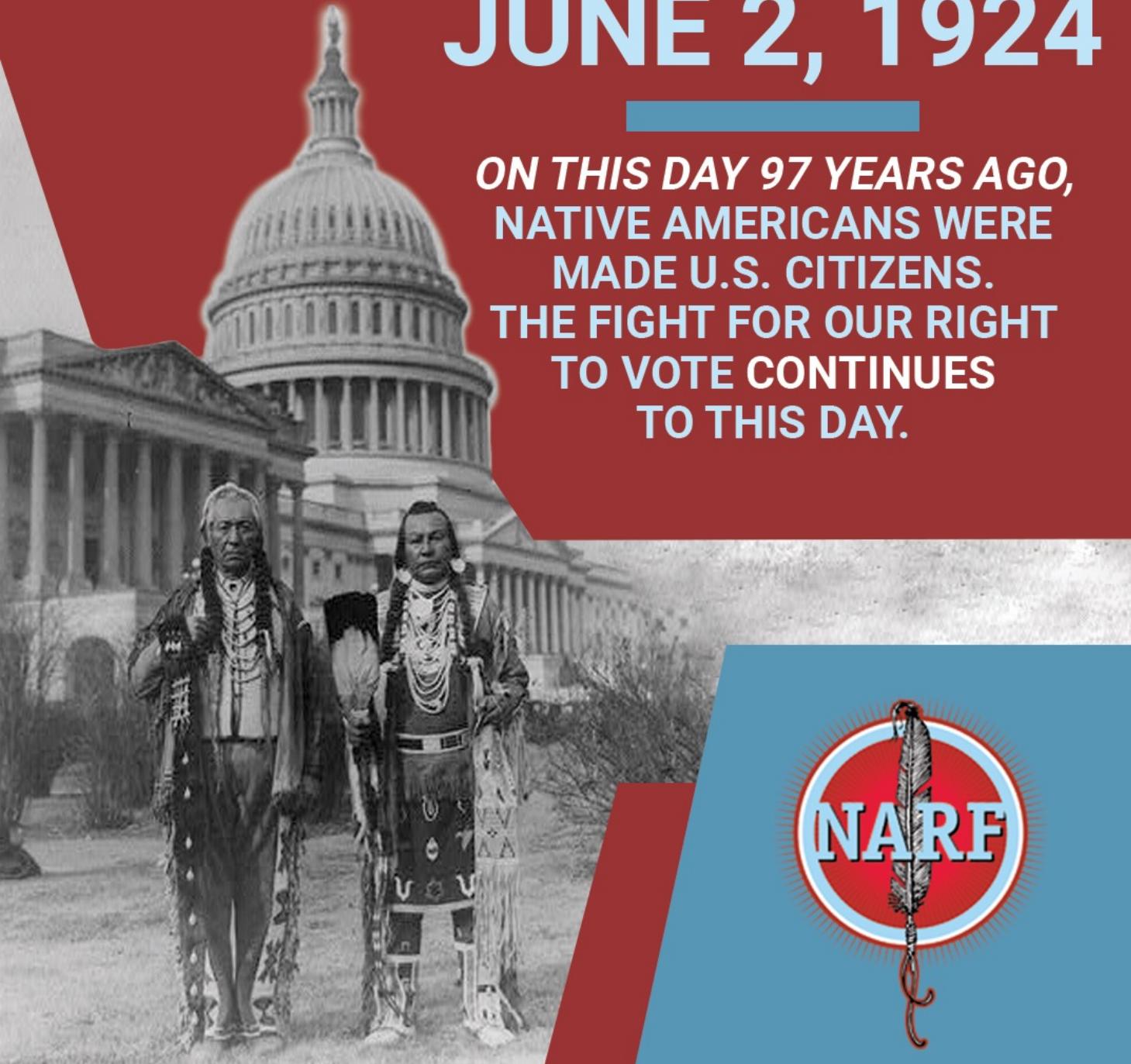
- Wyoming adds white women vote first
- Then the Western Territories: Utah, Washington, Colorado, Idaho, California, Oregon, Nevada, Montana add women
- Non-western territories: New York, Oklahoma, South Dakota add women too

The 19<sup>th</sup>  
Amendment—  
Women's Vote



# JUNE 2, 1924

*ON THIS DAY 97 YEARS AGO,  
NATIVE AMERICANS WERE  
MADE U.S. CITIZENS.  
THE FIGHT FOR OUR RIGHT  
TO VOTE CONTINUES  
TO THIS DAY.*



Citizenship—  
*The Key to  
The Vote*



CHINESE WOMEN VOTING IN OAKLAND, CAL

Woman suffrage is an all-embracing net

Citizenship—  
*The Key to  
The Vote*

## Expanding the Vote



# Methods of Suppressing the Vote

1870



1964



# Methods of Suppressing the Vote

## 1870—The 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment

**Here Are the Questions Asked in Alabama Test**

The following are questions asked of men and women trying to register to vote in Alabama. Registrars were not asked all the questions, nor any specific ones. Registrars could choose which questions to ask, also some applicants were asked certain questions, while others were asked other questions. The questions were prepared by the Alabama Supreme Court.

A single wrong answer could be used to disqualify a prospective voter.

A federal court recently ordered that the questions no longer be used as part of a "literacy" test in Selma, Alabama. These questions are still used in many parts of the South to control voting registration.

1.—Which of the following is a right guaranteed by the Bill of Rights?

- ... Public Education      Voting
- ... Employment      Trial by Jury
- ... The federal census of population is taken each five years.      (True or false)

2.—A person is indicted for a crime, name two rights which he has?

3.—A United States senator elected at the general election in November takes office the following year on what date?

4.—A Senator elected at the general election in November takes office the following year on what date?

5.—What does the word "amendment" mean?

6.—Which definition applies to the word "amendment"? Proposed change, as in a Constitution. Making changes in the nation's laws or war. A part of the government.

7.—A person appointed to the United States Supreme Court appointed for a term of

8.—When the Constitution was approved by the original colonies, many states had to ratify it in order for it to be in effect?      (True or false)

9.—Does enumeration affect the income tax levied on estates in various states?

10.—Persons opposed to swearing in an oath may, instead say "I solemnly affirm."

11.—To serve as President of the United States a person must have attained 25, 30, or 40 years.

12.—Who has the power to request his law to be on all coins and paper currency of the United States?

13.—The Supreme Court is the chief lawmaking body of the state.      (True or false)

14.—If a law passed by a state is contrary to provisions of the United States Constitution, who law prevails?

15.—The currency issued by the United States Senate, the state must hold an election but, meanwhile, the place may be filled by a temporary appointment made by

Length of Senator's Term

16.—A United States senator is elected for a term of

17.—Appropriation of money for the armed services can only for a period limited to      years.

18.—The chief executive and the legislative officers make up the      branch of government.

19.—Who passes laws dealing with piracy?

20.—The number of representatives which a state is entitled to have in the House of Representatives is based on

21.—The Constitution protects an individual against punishment which is      and      .

22.—When a jury has heard and rendered a verdict in a case, and the judgment on the verdict has become final, the defendant cannot again be brought to trial for the same cause. True or false?

23.—Name two levels of government which can levy taxes

24.—Communism is the type of government in      United Kingdom      England.

25.—Cases tried before a court of law are of two types, civil and

26.—By a majority vote of the members of the Congress, the Constitution can change provisions of the Constitution of the United States.      (True or false)

27.—For security, each state's president is counted in the presence of two bodies. Name them

28.—(True or false)

Who Decides Winner?

29.—If no candidate receives a majority of the electoral vote, who decides who will become President?

30.—Of the original 13 states, the one with the largest representation in the first Congress was

31.—Whose branch of state government is the Speaker of the House a part of?      Executive      Legislative

32.—Capital punishment is the giving of a death sentence.      (True or false)

33.—In case the President is unable to perform the duties of his office, who assumes them?

34.—Immigration is not permitted in the United States.      (True or false)

35.—If a state is a party to a case, the Constitution provides that original jurisdiction shall be in

36.—Who has the power to declare war?

37.—What does the word "ratifying" is a right guaranteed by the Bill of Rights?      Constitution      Education      Voting      Trial by Jury

How Are Electors Chosen?

38.—The Legislature of the state decide how presidential electors may be chosen.      (True or false)

39.—If it were proposed to join Alabama and Mississippi to form one state, what groups would have to vote against this proposal?

40.—The Vice President presides over

41.—The Constitution limits the size of the District of Columbia to      square miles.

42.—The only laws which can be passed to apply to an area in a federal arsenal are those passed by

43.—In which document or writing is the "Bill of Rights" found?

44.—Of which branch of government is a Supreme Court justice a part?

45.—If no person receives a majority of the electoral votes, the Vice President is chosen by the Senate.      (True or false)

Length of Presidential Term

46.—Impeachments of United States officials are tried by

47.—An effort to impeach the President of the United States is made, who presides at the trial?

Answers to Alabama Vote Questions

1.—Trial by jury.

2.—False

3.—See 5th, 6th and 8th amendment to Constitution.

4.—Jan. 3

5.—Jan. 20

6.—Proposed change

7.—Life during good behavior

8.—No

9.—Affirm

10.—In God We Trust

11.—Constitution

12.—Governor

13.—Senate

14.—Executive

15.—Congress

16.—See Art. I, Section 10, Constitution

17.—Cruel and unusual

18.—True

19.—National, local

20.—Russia

21.—Criminal

22.—Militia

23.—House and Senate

24.—House of Representatives

25.—Virginia

26.—Legislative

27.—True

28.—Vice President

29.—Senate

30.—Supreme Court

31.—Appealing

32.—True

33.—State legislatures and Congress

34.—Senate

35.—Senate

36.—Senate miles

37.—Senate

38.—Senate

39.—Senate

40.—Senate

41.—Senate

42.—Senate

43.—Senate

44.—Senate

45.—True

46.—See the Preamble to the Constitution

47.—Senate

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# Expanding the Vote—*If you can go to war, you should be able to vote!*

## BACKGROUND



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## 26th Amendment

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.



# VOTING RIGHTS EXPANDED



## Improvements in the Voting Rights Act:



- 1975—Translated voting information
- 1982—Ease of access assistance for Americans with disabilities
- 1986—Overseas military and citizens
- 2000—Previous felons after sentences completed

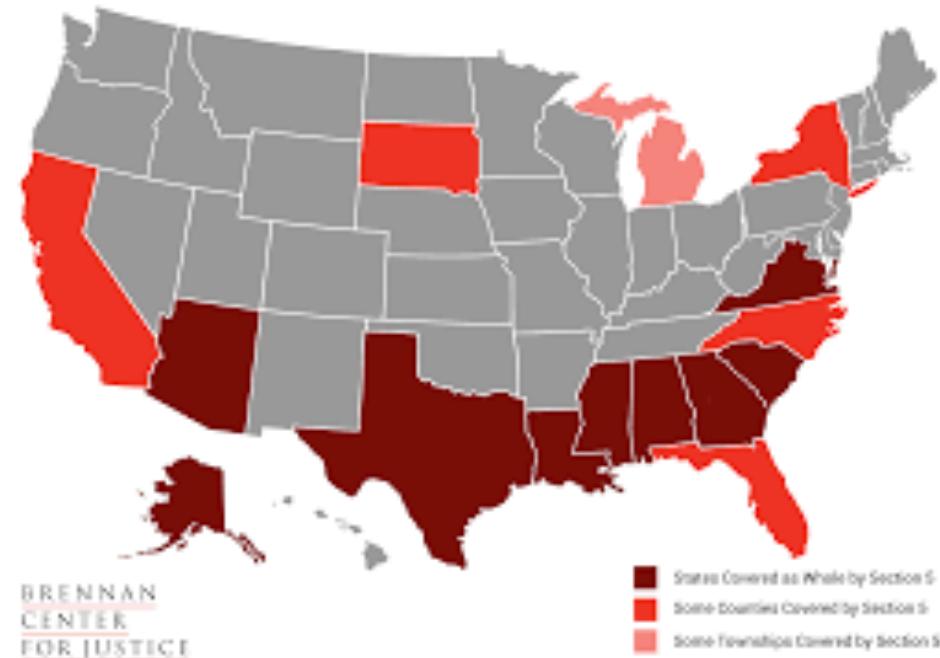
# Threats to the expansion of voting rights:

## 2010 Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission



## 2013 Shelby County vs. Holder

States Covered by Section 5 at the time of the Shelby County Decision



League of  
Women Voters:  
3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
Visual Arts  
Competition



**3rd Annual  
Visual Arts Competition**

On-line application form: [https://lwvpullman.org/docs/art%20competition/civics%20education/Visual\\_Arts\\_Competition/](https://lwvpullman.org/docs/art%20competition/civics%20education/Visual_Arts_Competition/)