

Voting Rights Act of 1965

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United States Voting Rights Act of 1965

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Defining moments Voting Rights Act of 1965

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The Voting Rights Act of 1965 at 50: How It Changed the World

As the bill progressed, legislators discovered they needed to make many amendments to the act. Literacy Tests Literacy tests were a cruel method used to force black people out of voting booths.

Our Documents

Today, with the South accounting for only 40% of the states with active, recently imposed voter restrictions, the Sheriff Jim Clarks of the modern world are as likely to practice their subtler forms of intimidation in Madison as in Montgomery, suggesting that, instead of bringing closure to a long struggle, the current battle in North Carolina is surely but one of many more to come.

Voting Rights Act of 1965 (U.S. National Park Service)

The Justice Department could now send examiners to any state or county where a literacy test or a similar deterrent to black registration had been in effect as of the 1964 presidential election and where turnout or registration for that election had fallen below 50% of the voting age population. Shelby also sought a permanent injunction against the enforcement of these two provisions.

Congress and the Voting Rights Act of 1965

In those years, African Americans in the South faced tremendous obstacles to voting, including poll taxes, literacy tests, and other bureaucratic restrictions to deny them the right to vote. The Voting Rights Act had not included a provision prohibiting poll taxes, but had directed the Attorney General to challenge its use.

Voting Rights Act of 1965

In 1973, the Supreme Court held certain legislative multi-member districts unconstitutional under the 14th Amendment on the ground that they systematically diluted the voting strength of minority citizens in Bexar County, Texas. President Johnson signed the resulting legislation into law on August 6, 1965. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 made discriminatory voting practices illegal.

Related Books

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