

# Give Us the Ballot

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## Give Us the Ballot

- *"Give Us the Ballot" is a 1957 speech by Martin Luther King Jr. advocating voting rights for African Americans in the United States.*
- *In the key section of the speech King listed some of the changes that would result by African Americans regaining voting rights:*
- *"Give us the ballot and we will no longer have to worry the federal government about our basic rights ...*
- *It is one of King's major speeches.*

"Give Us the Ballot" is a 1957 speech by Martin Luther King Jr. advocating voting rights for African Americans in the United States. King delivered the speech at the Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom gathering at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. on May 17.

In the key section of the speech King listed some of the changes that would result by African Americans regaining voting rights:

"Give us the ballot and we will no longer have to worry the federal government about our basic rights ...

"Give us the ballot and we will no longer plead to the federal government for passage of an anti-lynching law ...

"Give us the ballot and we will fill our legislative halls with men of good will ...

"Give us the ballot and we will place judges on the benches of the South who will do justly and love mercy ...

"Give us the ballot and we will quietly and nonviolently, without rancor or bitterness, implement the Supreme Court's decision of May 17, 1954."

It is one of King's major speeches.

## See also

- *Civil Rights Movement*

Selma to Montgomery marches

Civil Rights Movement

## References