Expansion of Voting Rights in the U.S.

Original Electorate
Voting generally limited to white male property owners.

Expansion Era #1
Religious qualifications and property-ownership requirements eliminated; by the mid-1800s most white males could vote.

Expansion Era #2
After the Civil War, the 15th Amendment intended to protect any male citizen from being denied the vote because of race or color.

Expansion Era #3
The 19th Amendment, ratified in 1920, gave women the right to vote in every State.

Expansion Era #4
Court decisions and federal legislation, especially the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and its later extensions, finally made the 15th Amendment truly effective.

Expansion Era #5
In 1971, the 26th Amendment lowered the voting age to 18.

Influences on Voter Behavior

- Religious, Ethnic Background
- Gender
- Education
- Geographic Location
- Age
- Family
- Candidates and Issues
- Income and Occupation
- Voter
- Party Identification

Political Dictionary

- suffrage p. 162
- franchise p. 152
- electorate p. 152
- disenfranchised p. 153
- poll tax p. 154
- alien p. 156
- transient p. 157
- registration p. 158
- purge p. 159
- poll book p. 159
- literacy p. 161
- gerrymandering p. 163
- injunction p. 164
- preclearance p. 167
- off-year election p. 170
- ballot fatigue p. 171
- political efficacy p. 172
- political socialization p. 173
- gender gap p. 175
- party identification p. 177
- straight-ticket voting p. 177
- split-ticket voting p. 177
- independent p. 177