



THE VOTING AMENDMENTS

Amendments 13, 14, 15, 17,
19, 24, and 26

THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT



- Meant to solidify the idea of the Emancipation Proclamation
- Passed BEFORE the Southern states returned to the Union
- Amendment that formally abolished slavery
 - “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime whereof the party shall be duly convicted...”
 - Passed by Congress 31 Jan 1865
 - Ratified 6 Dec 1865

FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT

- **Granted citizenship to “all persons born or naturalized in the United States”**
 - Meant to give former slaves citizenship
- **No state can deprive any person of life, liberty, and property without due process of law**
- **Problem: Supreme Court ruled the Amendment did not extend the Bill of Rights to the states**
- **Ratified by 28 of the 37 states**



FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT



- **Gave all African American males the right to vote**
 - African Americans held office in Southern states throughout 1880s but by 1890s, steps were taken for “white supremacy”
 - Disenfranchised anyone whose ancestors did not vote
- **1896 – *Plessy v. Ferguson* ruled “separate but equal” facilities for the races were legal**
- **“Jim Crow” segregation took hold in many states**

SEVENTEENTH AMENDMENT

- Popular election of Senators by the people
- Before the amendment was passed, the state legislators would appoint Senators to 6 year terms
 - Would give the people the ability to elect all their representatives



NINETEENTH AMENDMENT

- **Gave all American women the right to vote**
 - Beginning in the 1800s, women organized, petitioned, and picketed to win the right to vote, but it took them decades to accomplish
 - 18 August 1920
 - Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the amendment



TWENTY-FOURTH AMENDMENT

- Made poll taxes and other taxes used to keep African Americans from voting illegal
- Done to defend the spirit of the fifteenth amendment
- Backed up by the Voting Rights Act (1965) signed into law by Lyndon B. Johnson



TWENTY-SIXTH AMENDMENT

- Gave the right to vote to 18 year olds
- Ratified on 1 July 1971
 - Shortest ratification period in U.S. history
 - “Old enough to fight, old enough to vote”
 - Ended a debate that started during World War II but intensified during the Vietnam War
 - Draft helped

