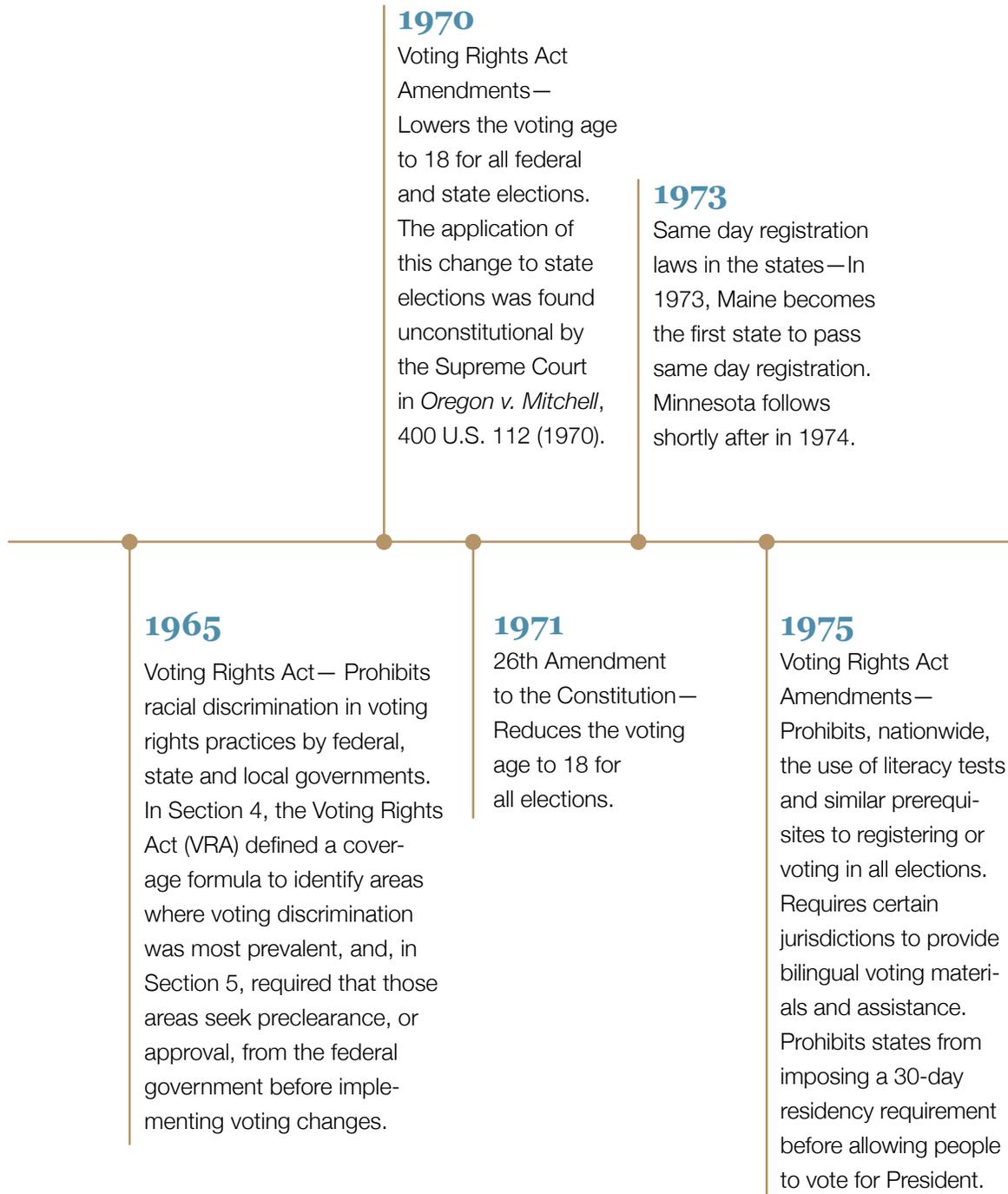


TIMELINE: A HISTORY OF ELECTION ADMINISTRATION IN THE U.S. SINCE 1965



1975

Overseas Citizens Voting Rights Act— Guarantees that citizens located outside the U.S. may register to vote and vote.

1984

Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act— Generally requires that states provide polling places for federal elections that are accessible to persons with physical disabilities and the elderly, or that a state establish a system whereby such voters who are assigned to a polling place that is not accessible be able to request an alternative means for casting a ballot on Election Day. The law also requires that states make available registration and voting aids for physically disabled and elderly voters.

1990

Americans with Disabilities Act— Prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities in all activities of state and local governments, including voting, and requires that state and local governments give people with disabilities an equal opportunity to benefit from their programs, services and activities.

1982

Voting Rights Act Amendments— Reauthorizes the requirement that certain jurisdictions provide bilingual voting materials and assistance. Requires that voters who need assistance in voting because of blindness, disability or illiteracy may obtain assistance from a person of the voter's choice (other than the voter's employer or union, or agent of the employer or union).

1986

The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)— Requires that members of the military and merchant marine, their family members, and citizens residing outside the U.S. be able to register and vote absentee in federal elections. Provides that these individuals may register and request an absentee ballot in one transaction (using the Federal Post Card Application), and provides a back-up method for voting if the voter does not receive a ballot in time (the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot). Repeals the Overseas Citizens Voting Rights Act of 1975.

1992

Voting Rights Language Assistance Act— Reauthorizes the requirement that certain jurisdictions provide bilingual voting materials and assistance.

1993

National Voter Registration Act (NVRA)—Requires that states provide federal voter registration applications when driver's license applications are submitted, at public assistance agencies, at certain state offices that provide state-funded services to persons with disabilities, and by mail. Prohibits the removal of persons from the registration rolls for federal elections based on not voting, and establishes procedures for removing persons from the registration rolls for federal elections for other reasons.

2002

Help America Vote Act (HAVA)—Seeks to improve election administration by creating a federal agency that serves as an information clearinghouse and sets certain standards relating to the administration of elections (the Election Assistance Commission), and by providing election administration funds to states. Requires accessible voting machines for voters with disabilities and requires use of a provisional ballot when an individual appears at the polls, declares that she or he is registered, but is not on the registration list. Does not specify what should be done with these ballots.

2000

Bush v. Gore—The United States Supreme Court rules that a statewide recount of ballots in Florida to determine the winner of the presidential election was a violation of the Equal Protection Clause and the Fourteenth Amendment. The ruling was based on the determination that there was no statewide standard for manually recounting ballots and that in practice each county had discretion to determine in its own manner which ballots to count or not.

2006

Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, Corretta Scott King, Cesar E. Chavez, Barbara Jordan, William Velazquez and Dr. Hector Garcia Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act—Reauthorizes Section 5 of the VRA, requiring jurisdictions with a history of discrimination in voting to seek federal review before implementing voting changes; reauthorizes Section 203, requiring certain jurisdictions to provide bilingual voting materials and assistance.

2008

Crawford v. Marion County Election Board—The United States Supreme Court rules that Indiana’s voter photo ID requirement is constitutional.

2013

Shelby County v. Holder—The United State Supreme Court rules Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act unconstitutional, claiming that the coverage formula for jurisdictions was outdated. Without Section 4, Section 5 becomes null, since no jurisdiction would be required to seek approval or pre-clearance before making changes to their voting laws and practices.

2009

Military and Overseas Empowerment Act (MOVE)—Amends UOCAVA to allow military, merchant marine and overseas voters to electronically request and receive voter registration and absentee ballot applications; generally requires that validly requested absentee ballots be sent to these voters no later than 45 days before an election for a federal office; and expands use of the federal write-in absentee ballot to all elections for federal office.