



# **The tumultuous history of the right to vote in the U.S**

Marion Douzou

January 28th, 2021.



"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

# The New York Times

National Edition

Sunshine and some clouds. Breezy in areas. Highs in the 60s to lower 70s. Partly cloudy tonight. Lows in the 40s to lower 50s. Sunshine and clouds tomorrow. Weather map, Page D7.

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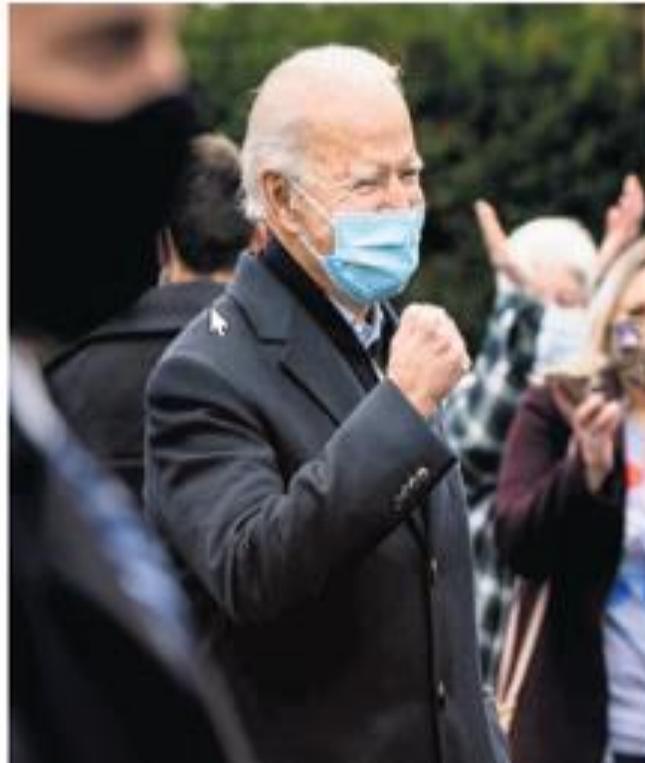
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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2020

Five and a Half Cents

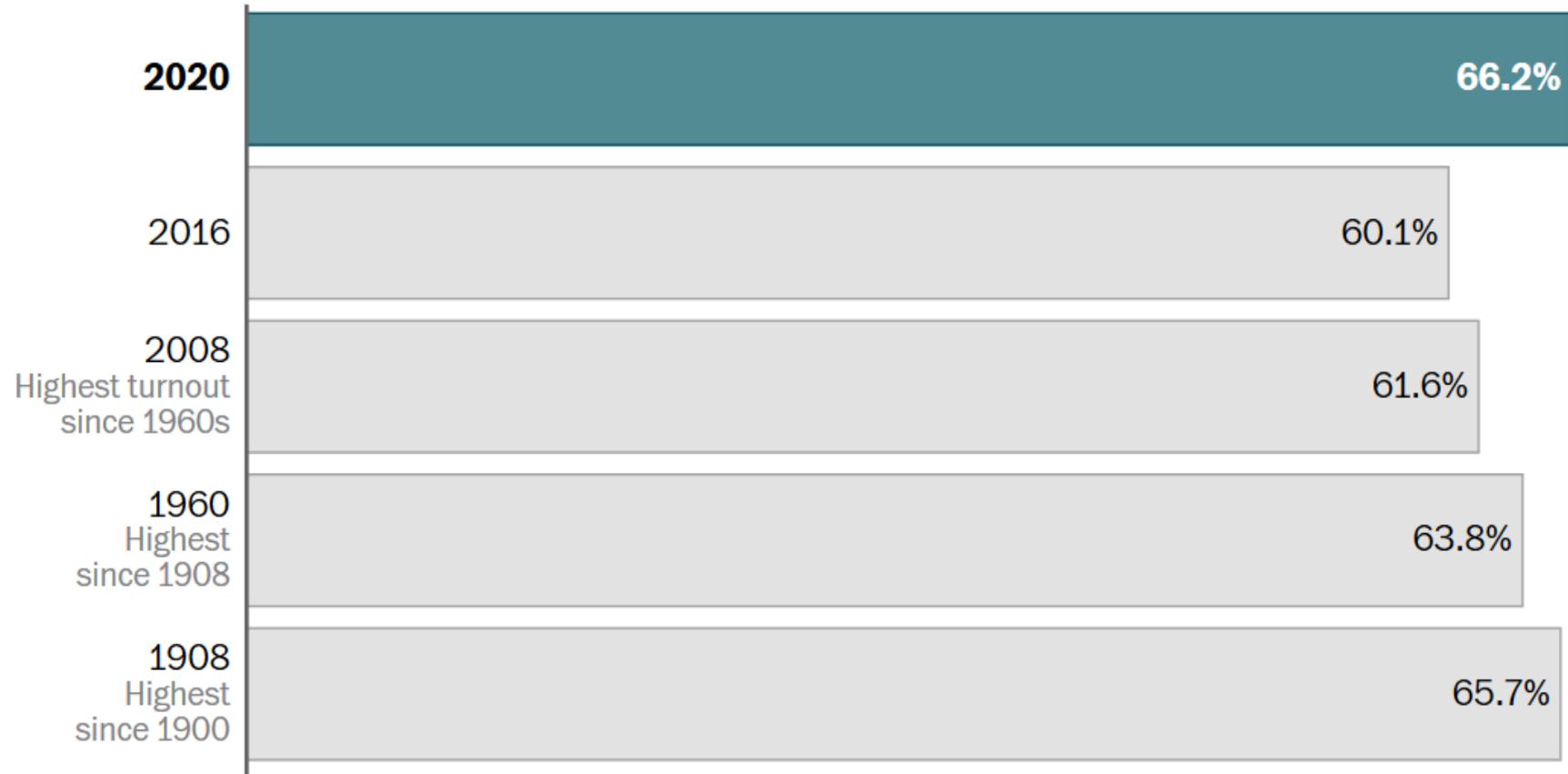
\$3.00

## ***TURNOUT SOARS, ALONG WITH SUSPENSE, AS NATION IN TUMULT DELIVERS VERDICT***



## How 2020 compares to other high-turnout presidential elections

As a share of the voting-eligible population



## The Founding Fathers and the right to vote:

- ▶ **James Madison** (« Father of the Constitution » + president 1809-1817) “the great danger is that the majority may not sufficiently respect the rights of the Minority”
- ▶ **Andrew Jackson** - president from 1829 to 1837





Source: <http://prohibition.themobmuseum.org/the-history/the-road-to-prohibition/the-temperance-movement/>

This illustration, published in a newspaper in 1874, shows women gathered in protest outside a local saloon.



A large group of women and some men gathered outside of Family Groceries in Waynesville, Ohio during the Women's Temperance Crusade of 1873-1874. The women were protesting the sale of alcoholic beverages.

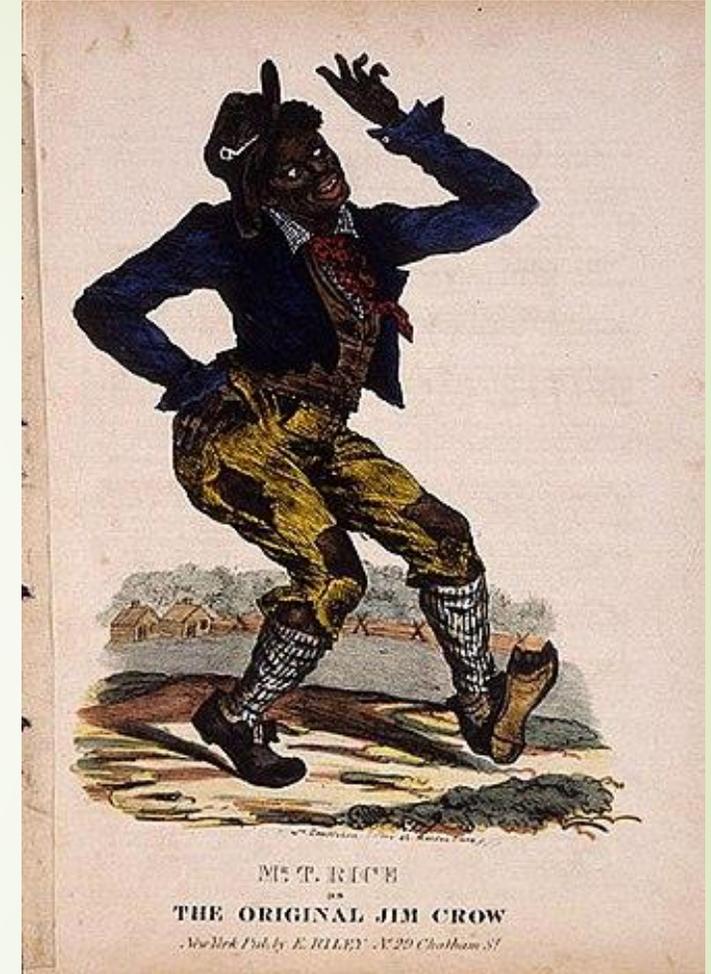
Source: [https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Temperance\\_Movement](https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Temperance_Movement)

Source: <https://hffi.org/wet-or-dry-a-history-of-prohibition-in-fredericksburg/>



Joseph Hayne Rainey (June 21, 1832 – August 1, 1887)

- **15<sup>th</sup> amendment**
- **Section 1**
- The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.
- **Section 2**
- The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

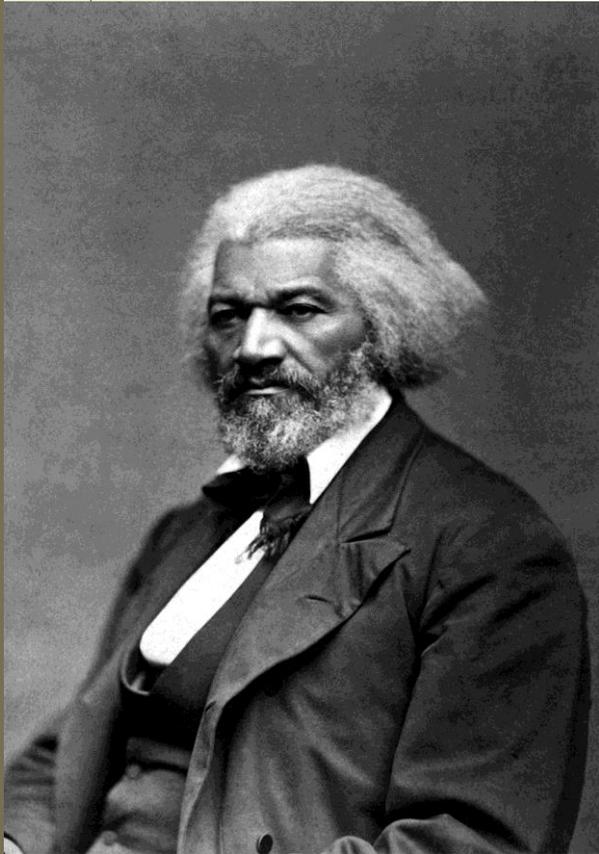


Birth of a nation:

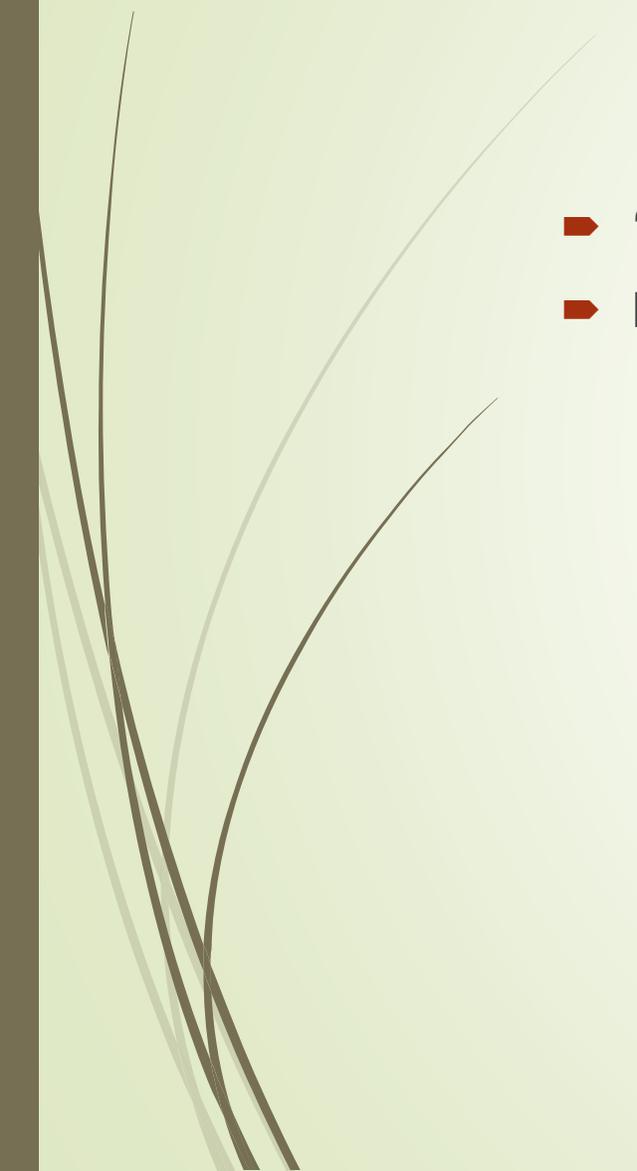
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GBzDH-Vwzy4>



- ▶ **Selma, Ava DuVernay, 2014.**
- ▶ [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1YRUUFYeOPI&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1YRUUFYeOPI&feature=emb_logo)



- ▶ “When women, because they are women, are dragged from their houses and hung upon lamp-posts; when their children are torn from their arms, and their brains dashed upon the pavement; when they are objects of insult and outrage at every turn; when they are in danger of having their homes burnt down over their heads; when their children are not allowed to enter schools; then they will have an urgency to obtain the ballot equal to our own.”
- ▶ When someone asked him, “Is that not all true about black women?”, he replied: “Yes, yes, yes; it is true of the black woman, but not because she is a woman, but because she is black.”
- ▶ Frederick Douglass, annual meeting of the Equal Rights Association in May 1869

- 
- 
- **“19th Amendment: 'A Start, Not A Finish' For Suffrage”, August 2020.**
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XcrGQ0npuCw>

## Civil Rights organizations:

Student Non-Violent Coordinating committee (SNCC)

The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)

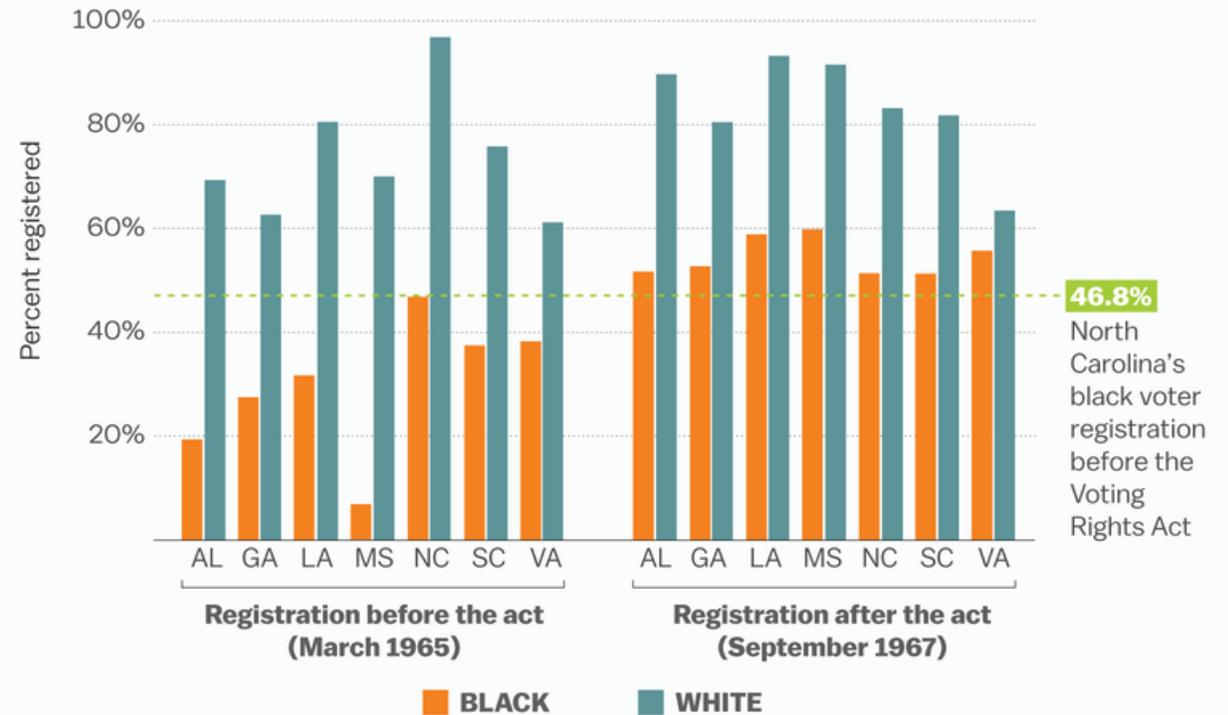
The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)



**Fannie Lou Hamer**  
(1917-1977)

### The impact of the Voting Rights Act of 1965

*Voter registration disparity in southern states*



SOURCE: "Minority Representation and the Quest for Voting Equality" via the US Commission for Civil Rights

Vox

<https://journals.openedition.org/transatlantica/7465>



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

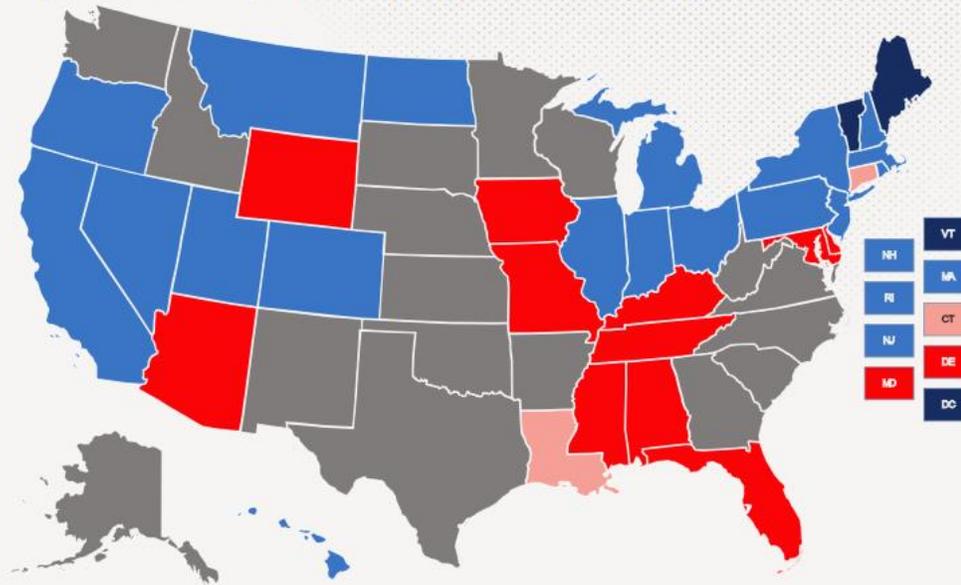
THE  
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10<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
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MASS INCARCERATION IN THE  
AGE OF COLORBLINDNESS

MICHELLE ALEXANDER  
WITH A NEW PREFACE BY THE AUTHOR

## Criminal Disenfranchisement Laws Across the United States



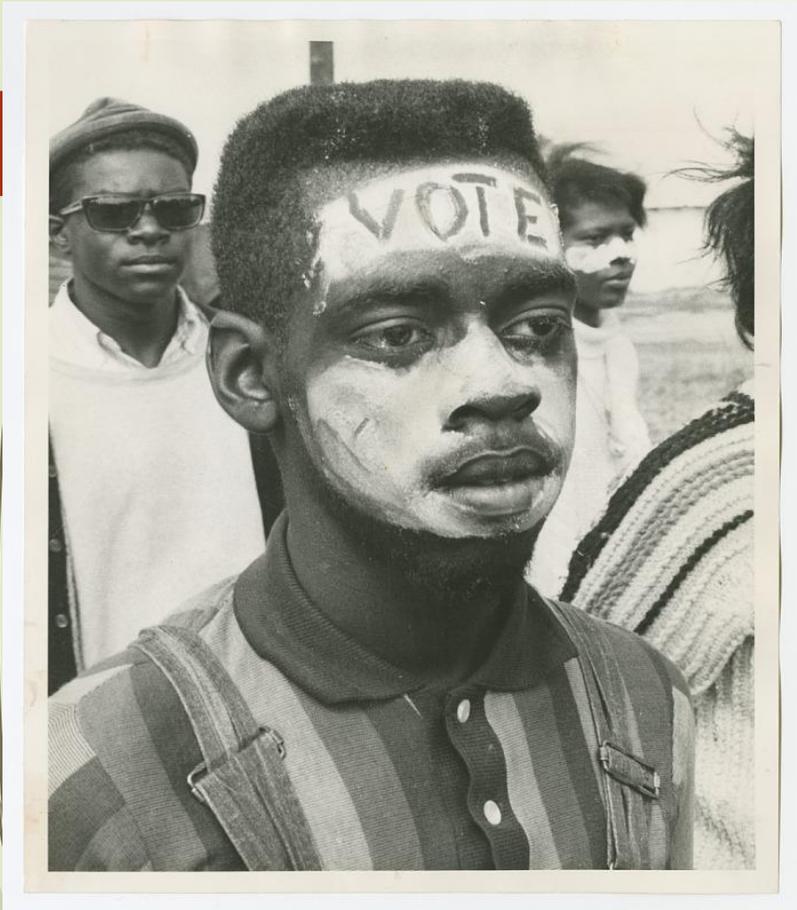
### Key:

- Permanent disenfranchisement for all people with felony convictions
- Permanent disenfranchisement for at least some people with criminal convictions
- Voting rights restored upon completion of sentence, including prison, parole, and probation
- Voting rights restored automatically after release from prison and discharge from parole (people on probation may vote)
- Voting rights restored automatically after release from prison
- No disenfranchisement for people with criminal convictions

Source: <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/criminal-disenfranchisement-laws-across-united-states>



Trailer *13th*:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6lXQbXPO3I>



March 1965, taken by [Gill, Henry](#)



Twitter post  
Stacey  
Abrams  
August 7th  
2020.



Source:  
<https://twitter.com/bennettcartoons/status/1346235641412136961>

➤ **On voter suppression and the 2020 presidential election:**

➤ Whose Vote Counts, Explained, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Netflix: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yn36tY7rNUM>

➤ NJ-ACLU Cartoon Contest winner, 2012

➤ Episode from *The Newsroom* HBO: <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x2plftz>

➤ Daily show episode: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gz640fs6g0A>

➤ Jon Oliver - Election 2020: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver- October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AytDzZ2ecCc>

➤ How does vote-by-mail work and does it increase election fraud?, *Brookings Institution*, Sep 21, 2020: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Vz7d0C1cGE&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Vz7d0C1cGE&feature=emb_logo)

➤ **On women's right to vote:**

➤ 19th Amendment: 'A Start, Not A Finish' For Suffrage, NPR, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XcrGQ0npuCw>

➤ History of voting in Washington state:

➤ <https://www.sos.wa.gov/assets/elections/history-of-voting-in-america-timeline.pdf>

➤ **On African Americans' access to voting:**

➤ Fanny Lou Hamer: <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/fannie-lou-hamer>

➤ The trailer *13<sup>th</sup> Ava Duvernay*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6IXQbXPO3I>

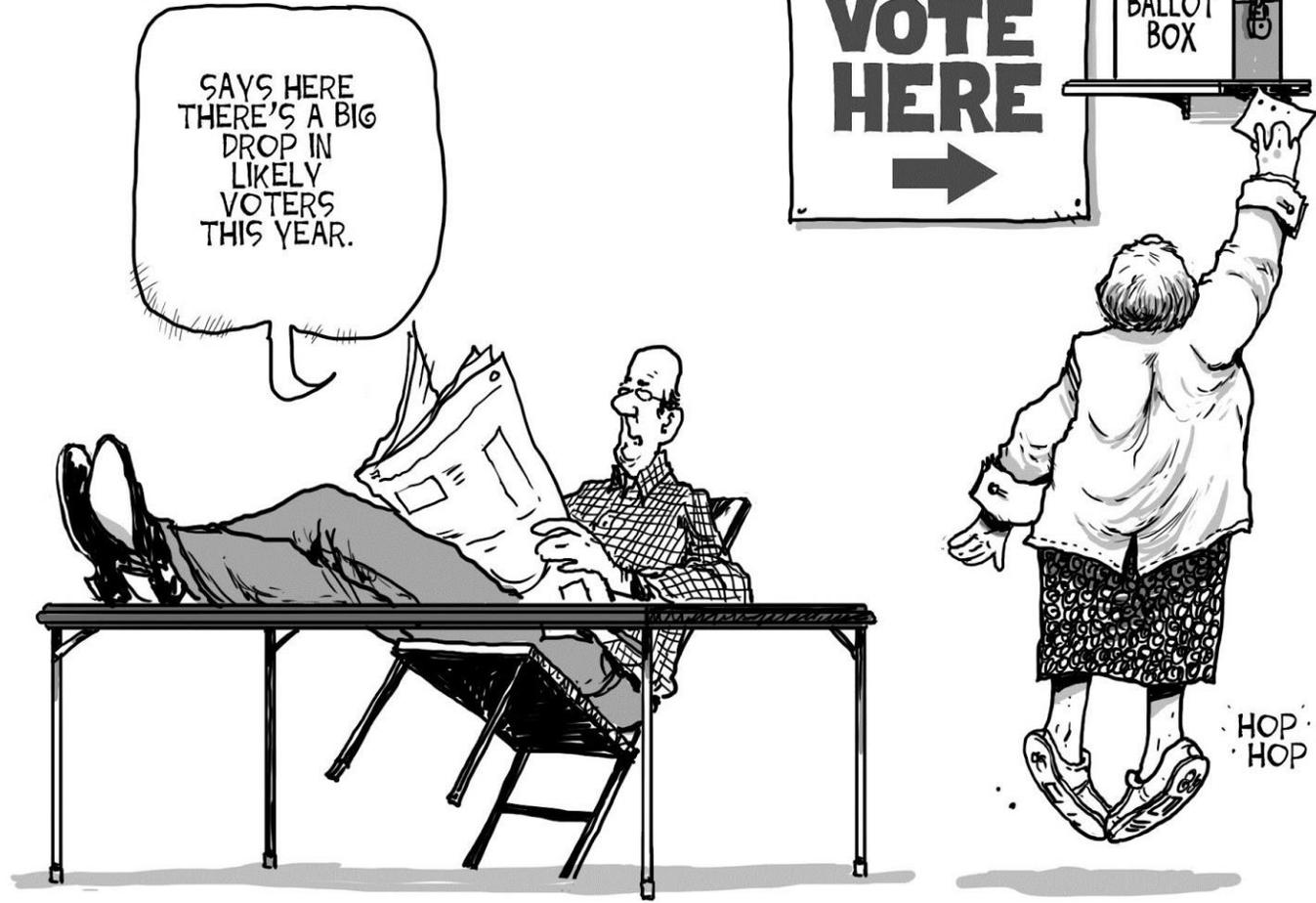
➤ *In the Heat of the Night*, 1967: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIlxY-LUhkE>

➤ Fair Fight: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XSlgo5Q85Ik&list=UUYI2B5hF-SxbzQmrSOuERAA&index=2>

➤ **For more about the history of the right to vote in the U.S.:**

➤ Alexander Keyssar, *The Right to Vote: The Contested History of Democracy in the United States*, Basic Books, 2009, 494 p.

SHENEMAN FOR THE ACLU-NJ



NJ-ACLU Cartoon Contest winner, 2012