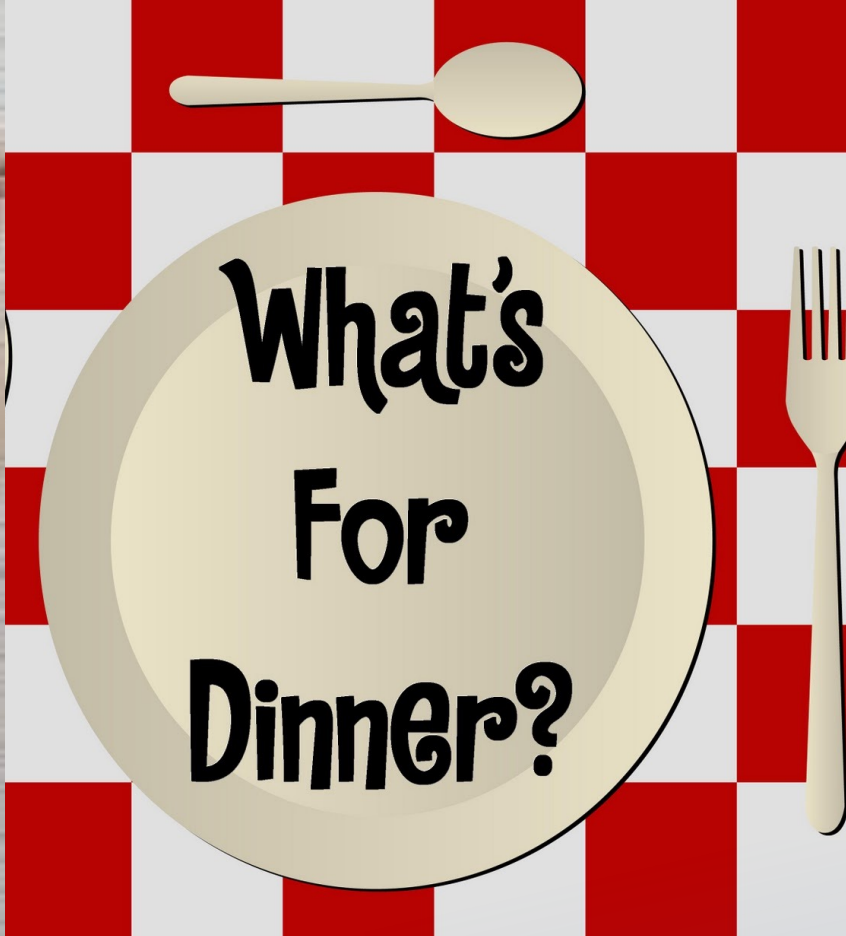




# 3rd Annual Visual Arts Competition

# What is Voting?





Ways we “vote” in our everyday lives



Who can vote?

All citizens over the age of 18  
can and **SHOULD** vote



# Who is a citizen?

Anyone born in the United States or;

Anyone who has at least one parent who is a citizen or;

Anyone who is a naturalized citizen

# What does it mean to 'naturalize'?

- ✓ Immigrants to the United States can become citizens but it is hard
  - ✓ Forms
  - ✓ Fees
  - ✓ Interview with citizenship test
    - ✓ Civics test on American Government and History
    - ✓ Basic English test demonstrating the ability to read, write, and speak



# The Civics Test:

- What is the supreme law of the land?
  - *The US Constitution*
- How many amendments does the Constitution have?
  - 27
- When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
  - *4 July 1776*
- Who was the first President?
  - *George Washington*
- How many stars are on the US flag and what do they stand for?
  - *50, one for each state*

# Is voting the same in every state?

- The writers, or “framers”, of the Constitution did not write the word “voting” anywhere!
  - *The Constitution originally left the decisions about who gets to vote and how that voting will happen up to each individual state*
- That means that today, there are fifty different ways that elections are conducted!
- The Good:
  - *The complexity of having 50 different systems means that it is very difficult to steal an election!*
  - *Five states, including Washington, use all mail-in voting*
- The Bad:
  - *Unlike Washington State, in states where voting is not by mail, state laws can make it more difficult for voters without transportation to go and vote in person*



An old leather ballot box that carried ballots from Pittsburg landing on the Snake River to the Imnana Bridge.





# Elections for federal office

# What offices do we vote for?

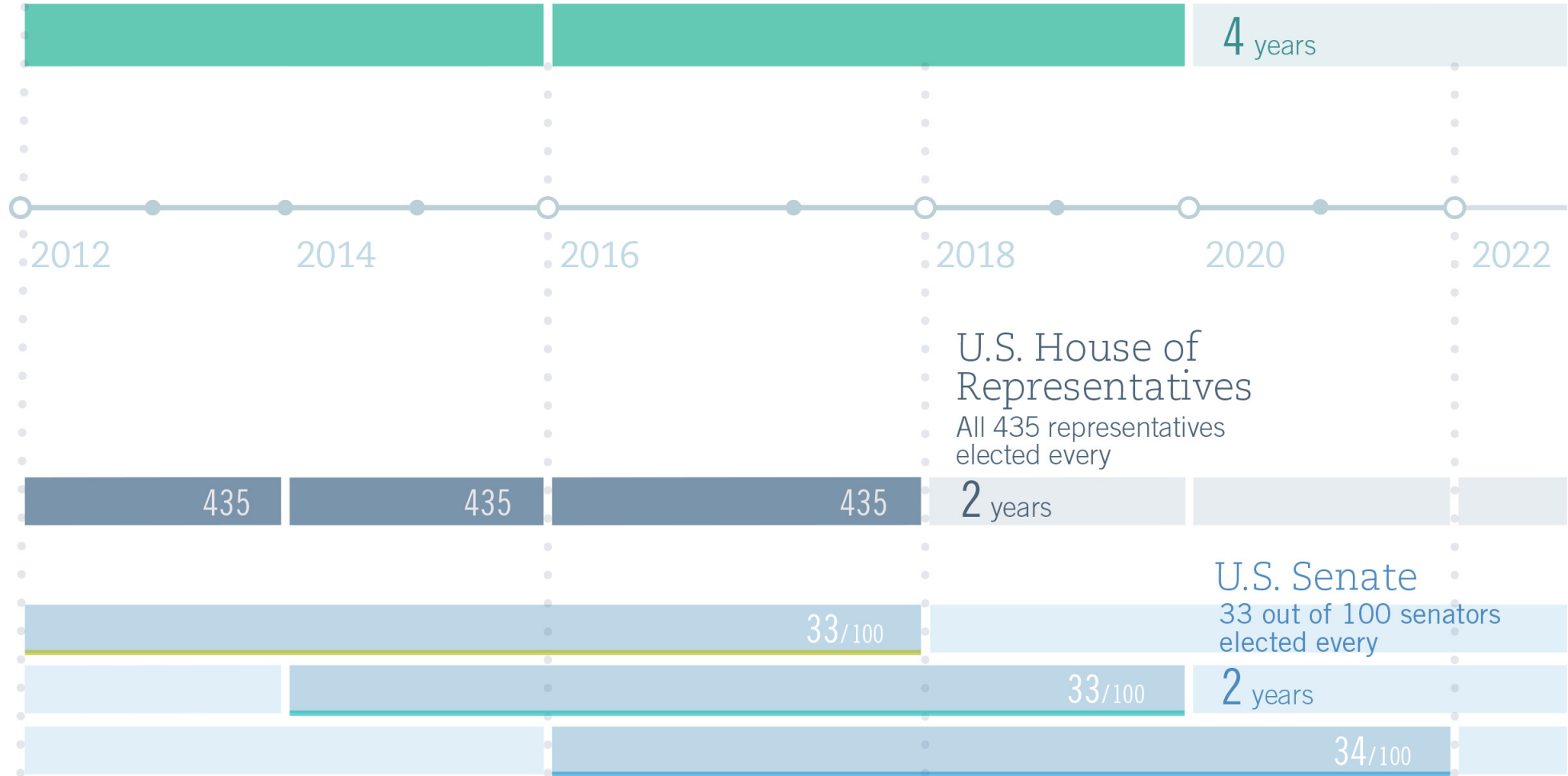
Elections for federal offices are usually held in even-numbered years.

Presidents and vice presidents are elected every 4 years. In the U.S. Congress, senators are elected every 6 years and representatives are elected every 2 years.

PRESIDENT VICE PRESIDENT

U.S. CONGRESS

REPRESENTATIVE SENATOR



Even though every eligible voter should vote, not everyone does...

- One of the most common excuses is, “My vote doesn’t count so why bother?”
  - *HOWEVER: last year (2023) in Endicott, one of the town council positions was decide by only **THREE votes!***
- Historically, the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment (giving women the right to vote) was ratified in Tennessee (the last state needed to make it a national law) by **ONE vote!**



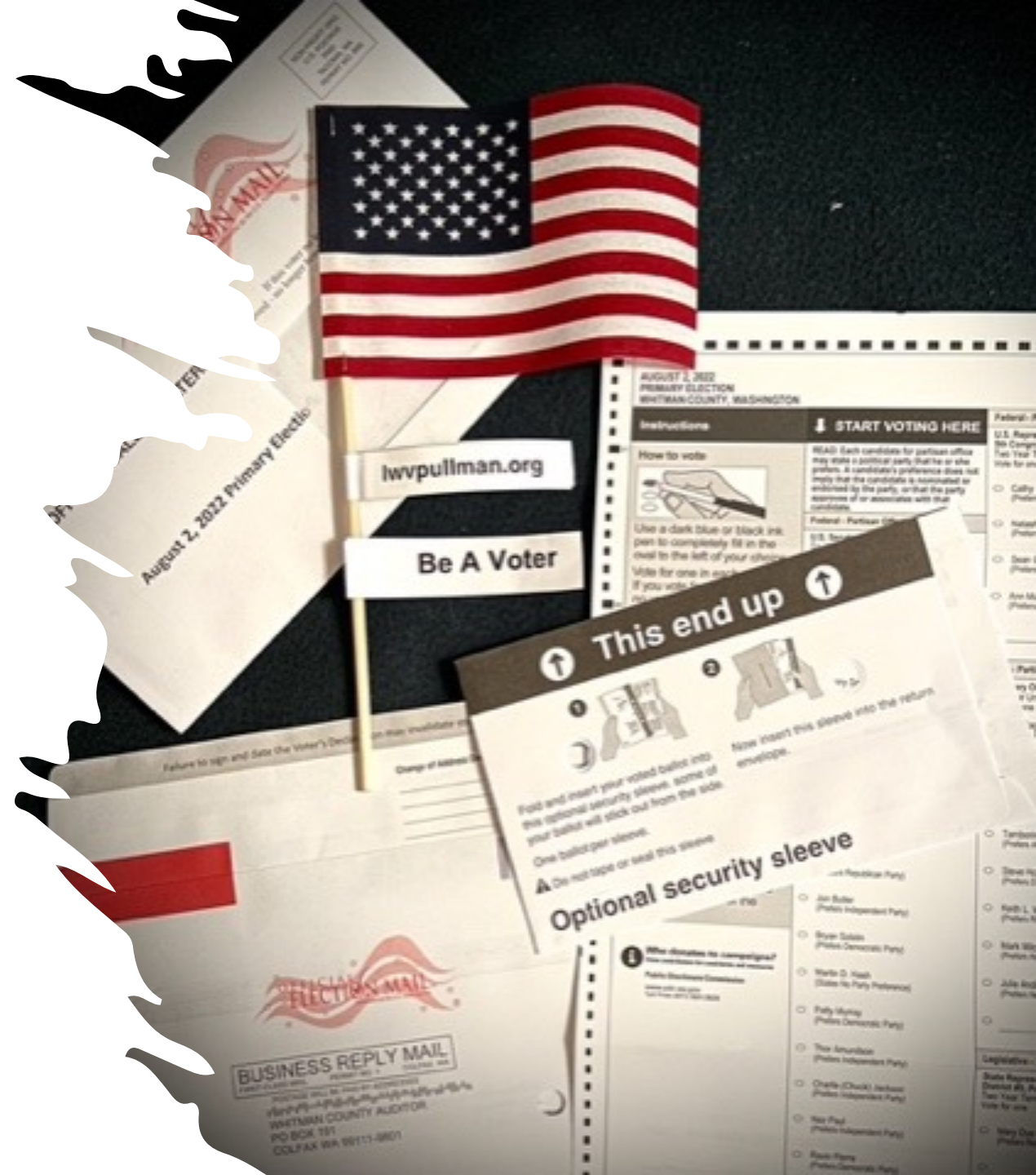
Warner Robins City Council - Post 2

Charlie Bibb - 50% (1,921)  
L. Ellis Carter - 50% (1,920)

A pie chart divided into two equal halves, one red and one blue, representing a 50-50 split in the election results.

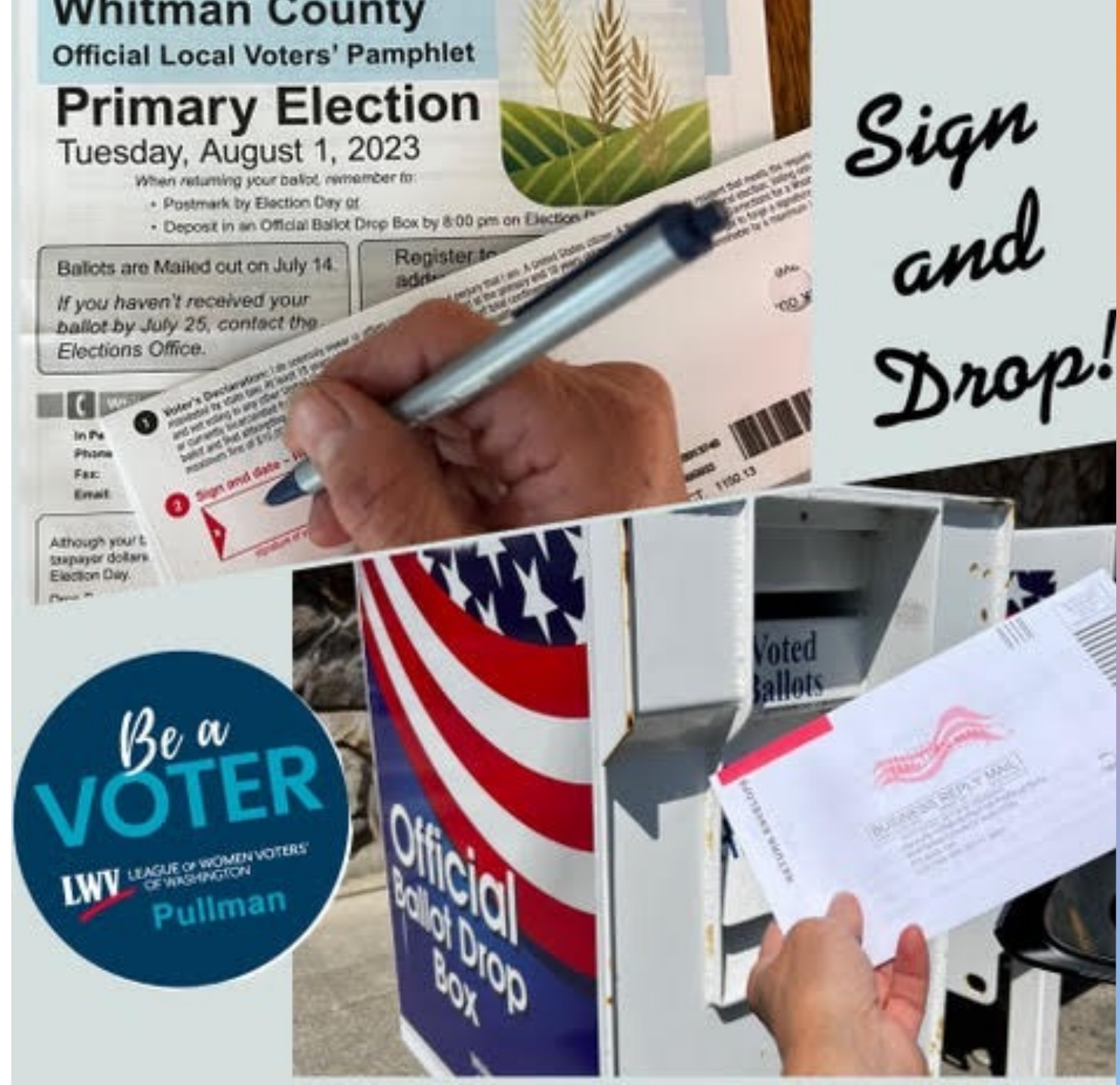
# What do you need to do to vote?

- Register
  - In Washington, when you get your driver's license at 16, you will be asked if you want to register to vote—easy!
  - Thus, you can “pre-register” meaning before you are 18 years old, and then vote once you are old enough



# Pay Attention!

- The signature you put on your driver's license follows you throughout your life when you register electronically
  - If you need to update your voter registration, you can do so at [www.voteWA.gov](http://www.voteWA.gov)
- That signature is how the voting system ensures that your ballot is really yours
  - The main reason that ballots are rejected is because of a mismatch between your signature on the ballot and your signature in the electronic system
  - The election office will contact you if your ballot is rejected so that you can fix or "cure" it



# How do we vote in Washington?

## Vote by mail

- No stamp needed!
- 18 days to turn in your ballot!
- Your ballot arrives in the mail & has three parts:
  - The ballot
  - The security envelope
  - And the return envelope

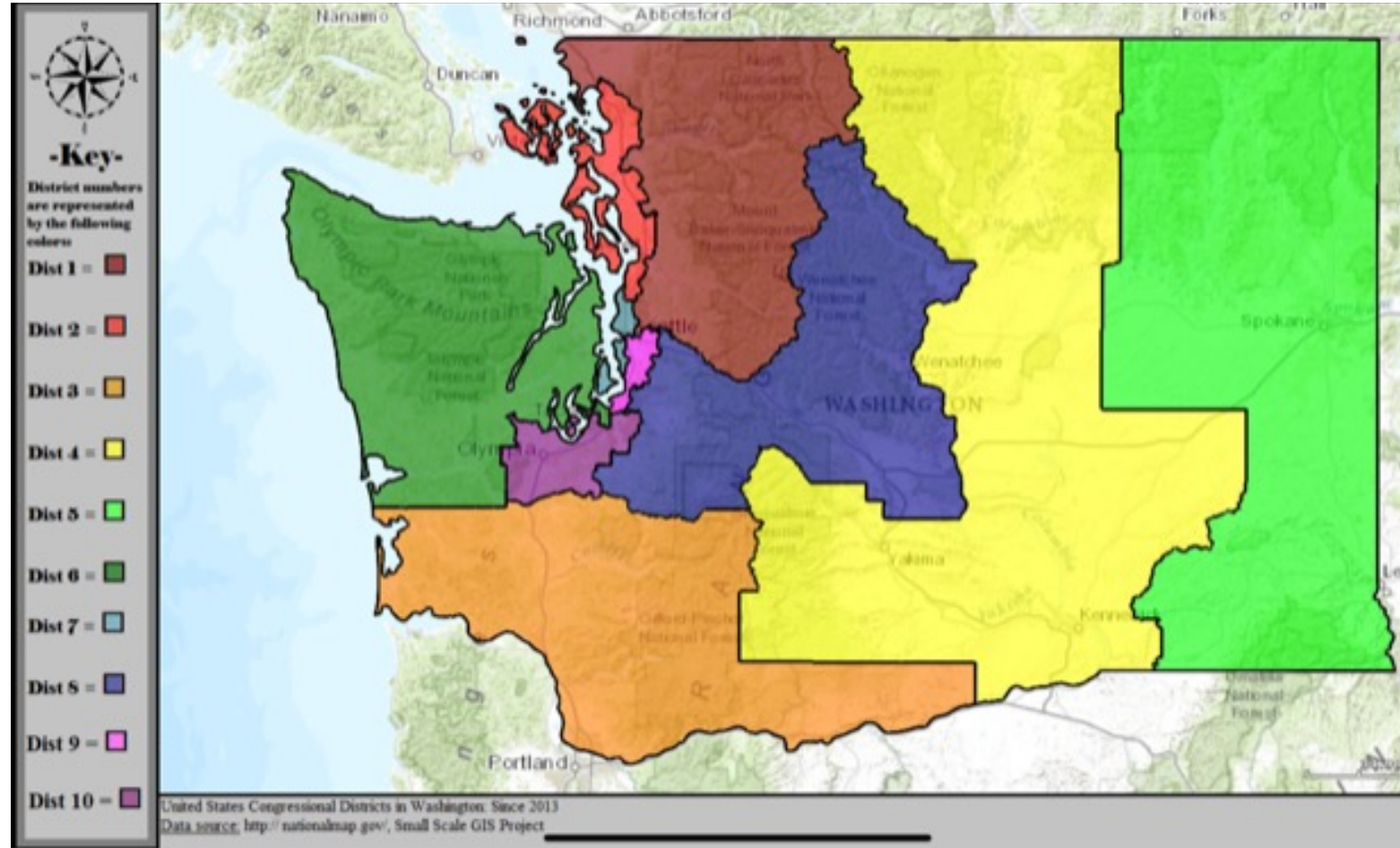
**TRACK YOUR BALLOT:**

<https://www.myvote.wa.gov>



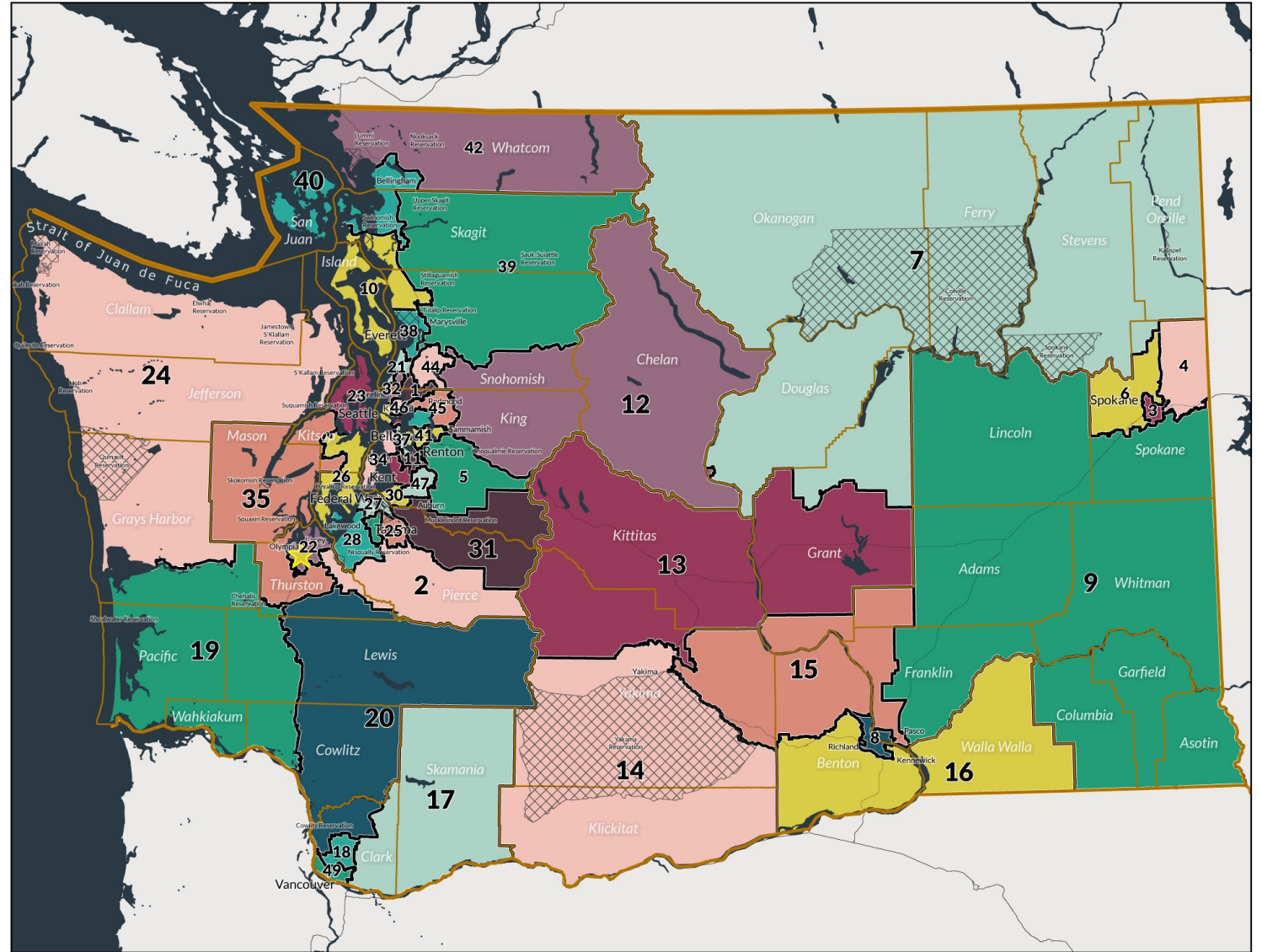
# What is on a ballot?

- **We can vote at the Federal Level:**
  - President
  - 2 Senators
  - 1 Representative (1 of 10 for the State of WA)
    - Whitman County is in District 5



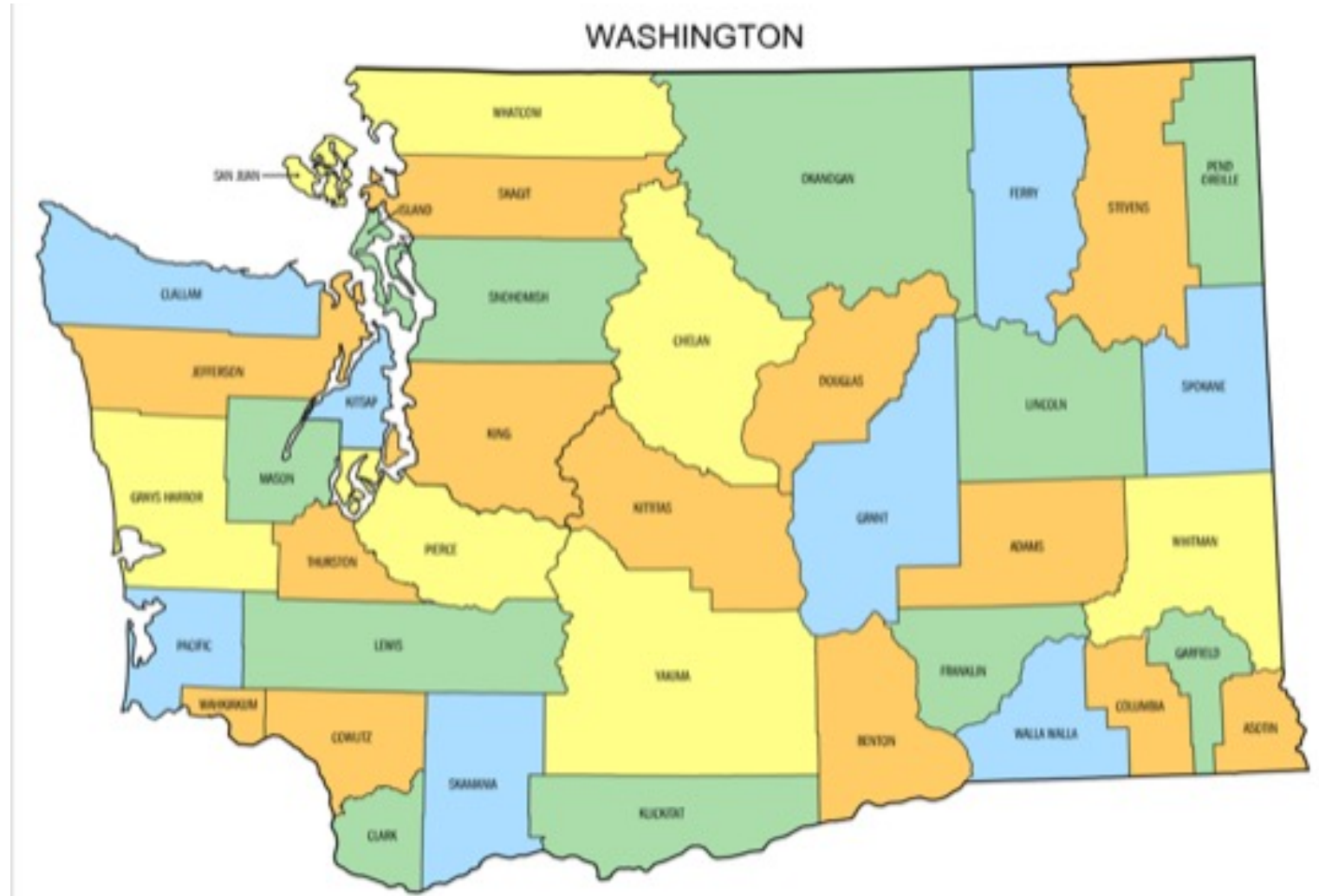
# What is on a ballot?

- **We can vote at the:**
  - State Level
    - Executive branch (9 offices)
    - legislative branch (1 Senator and 2 Representatives for each district)
      - Whitman County is in District 9 out of 49 districts in the state



# What is on a ballot?

- **We can vote at the: Local Level**
  - Local government (County officials, City Council, Mayors, School Board, and other Boards)



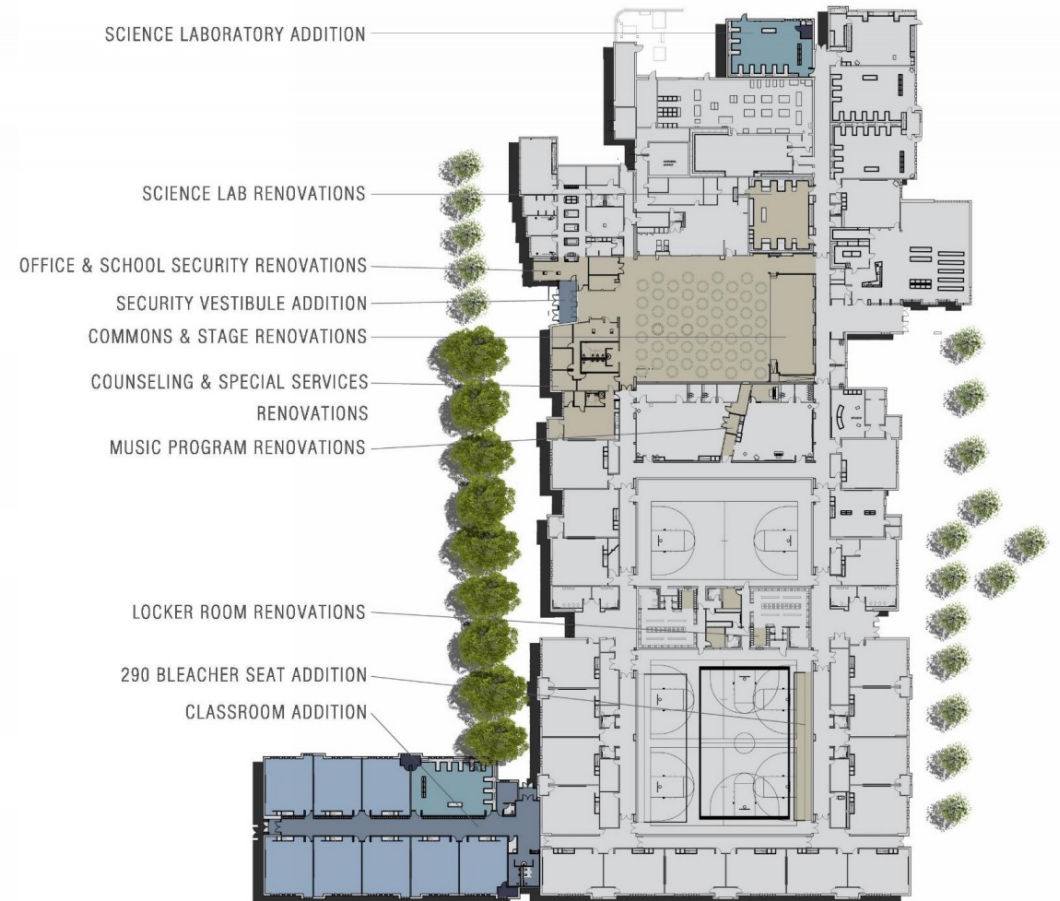


What ELSE is on a ballot?



- We can vote for special rules:
  - *Initiatives*
  - *Referendums*
- We can vote in Special Elections:
  - *Levies*
  - *Bonds*

LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL



# We the People

of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common Defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do hereby constitute and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

## Article 1

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and including Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand, but each State shall have at least one Representative, and until such Enumeration, the Basis of Representation shall be based on the best Information which is attainable.

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There shall be no Preference given to any State in the Appointment of Electors, and no State shall have more than one Elector.

Section 3. The Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

Section 4. The Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

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Section 13. The Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

Section 14. The Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

Section 15. The Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.



The Federal Government—The history of the vote

# The Constitution Gives to The Separate States Control over The Vote...

- Article I Legislative Branch
- Section 4 Congress
- Clause 1 Elections Clause
- The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of choosing Senators.





Who could vote?  
*Only 6% of the  
population*

- 
- White, male, property owners, who pay taxes on that property...

Except in  
New Jersey,  
Connecticut, and  
Pennsylvania where  
free black men could  
vote.



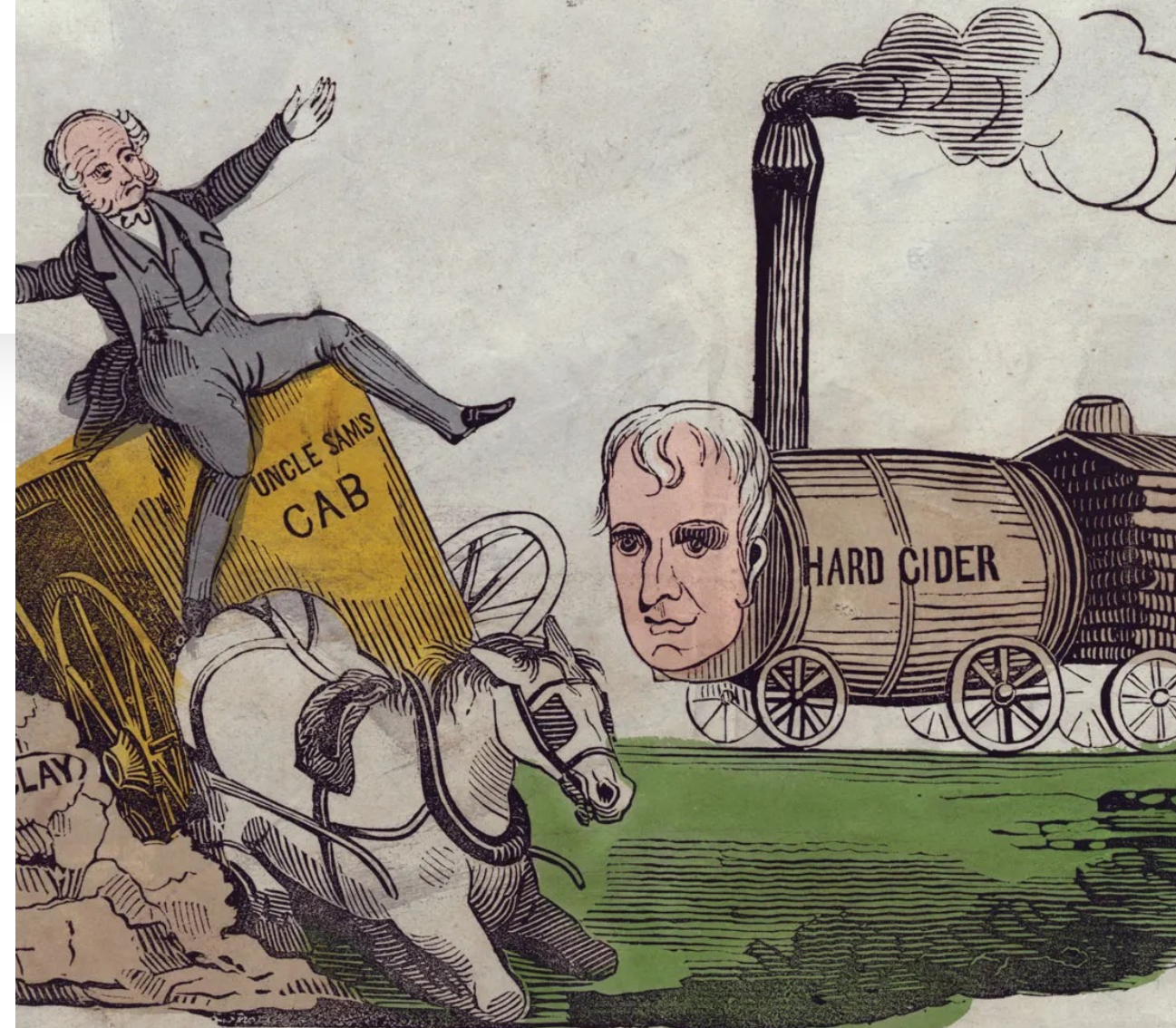


But that  
didn't last...  
*New Jersey  
and  
Pennsylvania  
changed  
their minds  
between  
1792--1838*

# 1792-1856: Property ownership no longer needed

Thanks to the removal of the property ownership requirement, in the Presidential election of 1840:

80% of white men in the country voted!



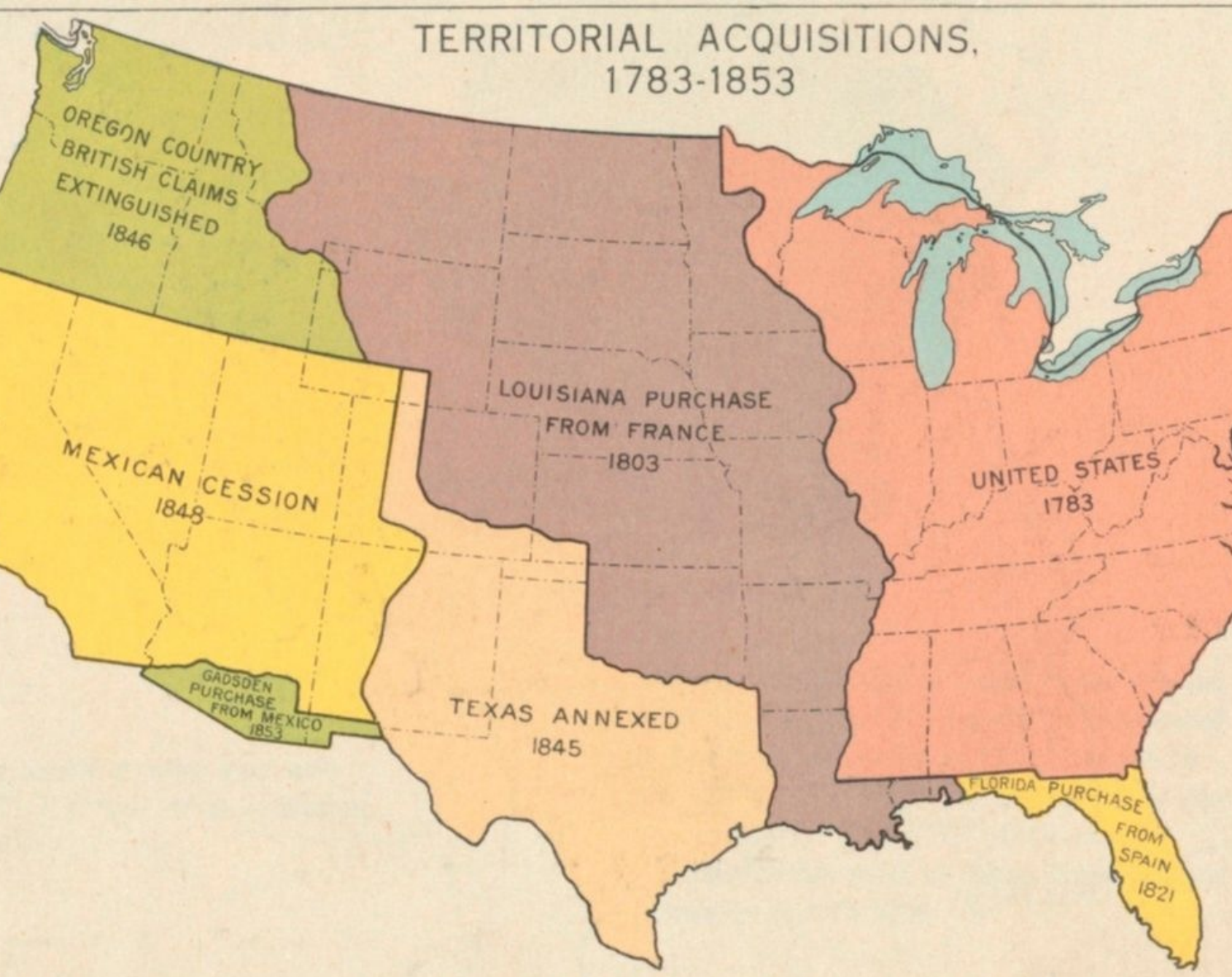
**People's Line--Take care of the Locomot**  
*Sold at 104 Nassau, and 18 Division Streets, New-York.*

# The Civil War Amendments: 1865-1870

- 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment Abolition of Slavery
- 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment Equal Protection of the Law, Natural Born Citizenship
- 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment Black men to vote







# Westward Expansion

1869—1917

- Wyoming adds white women vote first
- Then the Western Territories: Utah, Washington, Colorado, Idaho, California, Oregon, Nevada, Montana add women
- Non-western territories: New York, Oklahoma, South Dakota add women too

The 19<sup>th</sup>  
Amendment—  
Women's Vote



# JUNE 2, 1924

ON THIS DAY 97 YEARS AGO,  
NATIVE AMERICANS WERE  
MADE U.S. CITIZENS.  
THE FIGHT FOR OUR RIGHT  
TO VOTE CONTINUES  
TO THIS DAY.

Citizenship—  
*The Key to  
The Vote*





CHINESE WOMEN VOTING IN OAKLAND, CAL.

Woman suffrage is an all-embracing net

Citizenship—  
*The Key to  
The Vote*

Expanding the  
Vote



# Methods of Suppressing the Vote

1870



1964



# Methods of Suppressing the Vote

## 1870—The 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment

## 1965—The Voting Rights Act

LANCASTER, PA. NEW ERA—TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1965—11

### Here Are the Questions Asked in Alabama Test

The following are questions asked of men and women trying to register to vote in Alabama. Registrants were not asked all the questions, nor any specific ones. Registrars could choose which questions to ask, and some applicants were asked certain questions, after applicants were asked others. The questions were prepared by the Alabama Supreme Court.

A single wrong answer could be used to disqualify a prospective voter.

A federal court recently ordered that the questions no longer be used as part of a "literacy" test in Selma, Ala., but similar questions are still used in many parts of the South to control voting registration.

1—Which of the following is a right guaranteed by the Bill of Rights?  
 ... Public Education    Voting  
 ... Employment    Trial by Jury

2—The federal census of population is taken each five years.  
 (True or false)

3—If a person is indicted for a crime, name two rights which he has.

4—A United States senator elected at the general election in November takes office the following year on what date?

5—A President elected at the general election in November takes office the following year on what date?

**Meaning of Word 'Amendment'**

6—Which definition applies to the word "amendment"?  
 Proposed change, as in a Constitution  
 Making of peace between nations at war  
 A part of the government

7—A person appointed to the United States Supreme Court is appointed for a term of

8—When the Constitution was approved by the original colonies, how many states had to ratify it in order for it to be in effect?

9—Does enumeration affect the income tax levied on citizens in various states?

10—Persons opposed to swearing in an oath may say, instead "I solemnly

11—To serve as President of the United States a person must have attained 25, 35, 40, 45 years.

12—What words are required by law to be on all coins and paper currency of the United States?

13—The Supreme Court is the chief lawmaking body of the state.  
 (True or false)

14—If a law passed by a state is contrary to provisions of the United States Constitution, which law prevails?

15—If a vacancy occurs in the United States Senate, the state must hold an election but, meanwhile, the place may be filled by a temporary appointment made by

**Length of Senator's Term**

16—A United States senator is elected for a term of years.

17—Appropriation of money for the armed services can be only for a period limited to years.

18—The chief executive and the administrative officers make up the branch of government.

19—Who passes laws dealing with areas?

20—The number of representatives which a state is entitled to have in the House of Representatives is based on

21—The Constitution protects an individual against punishments which are and

22—When a jury has heard and rendered a verdict in a case, and the judgment on the verdict has become final, the defendant cannot again be brought to trial for the same cause. (True or false)

23—Name two levels of government which can levy taxes

24—Communism is the type of government in: Russia    England.

25—Cases tried before a court of law are of two types, civil and

26—By a majority vote of the members of the Congress, the Congress can change provisions of the Constitution of the United States. (True or false)

27—For security, each state has a right to form a

28—The electoral vote for President is counted in the presence of two bodies. Name them

**Who Decides Winner?**

29—If no candidate for President receives a majority of the electoral vote, who decides who will become President?

30—Of the original 13 states, the one with the largest representation in the first Congress was

31—If which branch of state government is the Speaker of the House a part?    Executive    Legislative    Judicial

32—Capital punishment is the giving of a death sentence. (True or false)

33—In case the President is unable to perform the duties of his office, who assumes them?

34—"Involuntary servitude" is permitted in the United States upon conviction of a crime. (True or false)

35—If a state is a party to a case, the Constitution provides that original jurisdiction shall be in

36—Congress passes laws regulating cases which are included in those over which the United States Supreme Court has jurisdiction

37—Which of the following is a right guaranteed by the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution?  
 ... Public Housing    Education  
 ... Voting    Trial by Jury

**How Are Electors Chosen?**

38—The Legislatures of the states decide how presidential electors may be chosen. (True or false)

39—If it were proposed to join Alabama and Mississippi to form one state, what groups would have to vote approval in order for it to be done?

40—The Vice President presides over

41—The Constitution limits the size of the District of Columbia to

42—The only laws which can be passed to apply to an area in a federal arsenal are those passed by provided consent for the purchase of the land is given by

43—In which document or writing is the "Bill of Rights" just a part?

44—Of which branch of government is a Supreme Court justice a part?    Executive    Legislative    Judicial

45—If no person receives a majority of the electoral votes, the Vice President is chosen by the Senate. (True or false)

### Answers to Alabama Vote Questions

Here are the answers to the questions Alabama registrars have used as a "pool" from which to choose questions to ask those trying to register to vote.

1—Trial by Jury.  
 2—False  
 3—See 5th, 6th and 8th amendments to Constitution.  
 4—Jan. 3  
 5—Jan. 20  
 6—Proposed change  
 7—Life during good behavior  
 8—None  
 9—No  
 10—Affirm  
 11—25  
 12—In God We Trust  
 13—False  
 14—Constitution  
 15—Governor  
 16—24  
 17—Two  
 18—Executive  
 19—Congress

20—Population, less one taxable Indian  
 21—Cruel and unusual  
 22—True  
 23—State, national, local  
 24—Russia  
 25—Criminal  
 26—False  
 27—Militia  
 28—House and Senate  
 29—House of Representatives  
 30—Virginia  
 31—Legislative  
 32—True  
 33—Vice President  
 34—True  
 35—Supreme Court  
 36—Appellate  
 37—Trial by Jury  
 38—True  
 39—State legislatures and Congress  
 40—Senate  
 41—10 square miles  
 42—Congress-State legislature  
 43—Constitution  
 44—Judicial  
 45—True

38—In the impeachment of the chief justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, who tries the case?  
 ... Money is coined by order of:  
 ... U. S. Congress  
 ... The President's Cabinet  
 ... State Legislatures

46—Name two things which the states are forbidden to do by the United States Constitution

47—If election of the President becomes the duty of the United States House of Representatives and it fails to act, who becomes President and when?

48—How many votes must a person receive in order to become President if the election is decided by the United States House of Representatives?

**Approval of Constitution**

49—How many states were required to approve the original Constitution in order for it to be in effect?

50—Check the offenses below which, if you are convicted of them, disqualify you for voting:  
 ... Murder  
 ... Petty Larceny  
 ... Issuing Worthless Checks  
 ... Whiskey

51—The Congress decides in what manner states elect presidential electors. (True or false)

52—Name two of the purposes of the United States Constitution

53—Congress is composed of

54—All legislative powers granted in the United States Constitution may legally be used only by

55—The population census is required to be made every years.

56—Impeachments of United States officials are tried by

57—If an effort to impeach the President of the United States is made, who presides at the trial?

58—On the impeachment of the chief justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, who tries the case?  
 ... U. S. Congress  
 ... The President's Cabinet  
 ... State Legislatures

59—Persons elected to cast a state's vote for the United States President and Vice President are called presidential electors.

**Name One Power Exclusively Legislative**

60—Name one power which is exclusively legislative and is mentioned in one of the parts of the United States Constitution above?

61—If a person flees from justice into another state, who has authority to ask for his return?

62—Whose duty is it to keep Congress informed of the state of the union?    ... Congress cannot agree on adjournment, who sets the time?

63—When the presidential electors meet to cast ballots for President, must all electors in a state vote for the same person for President or can they vote for different persons if they so choose?

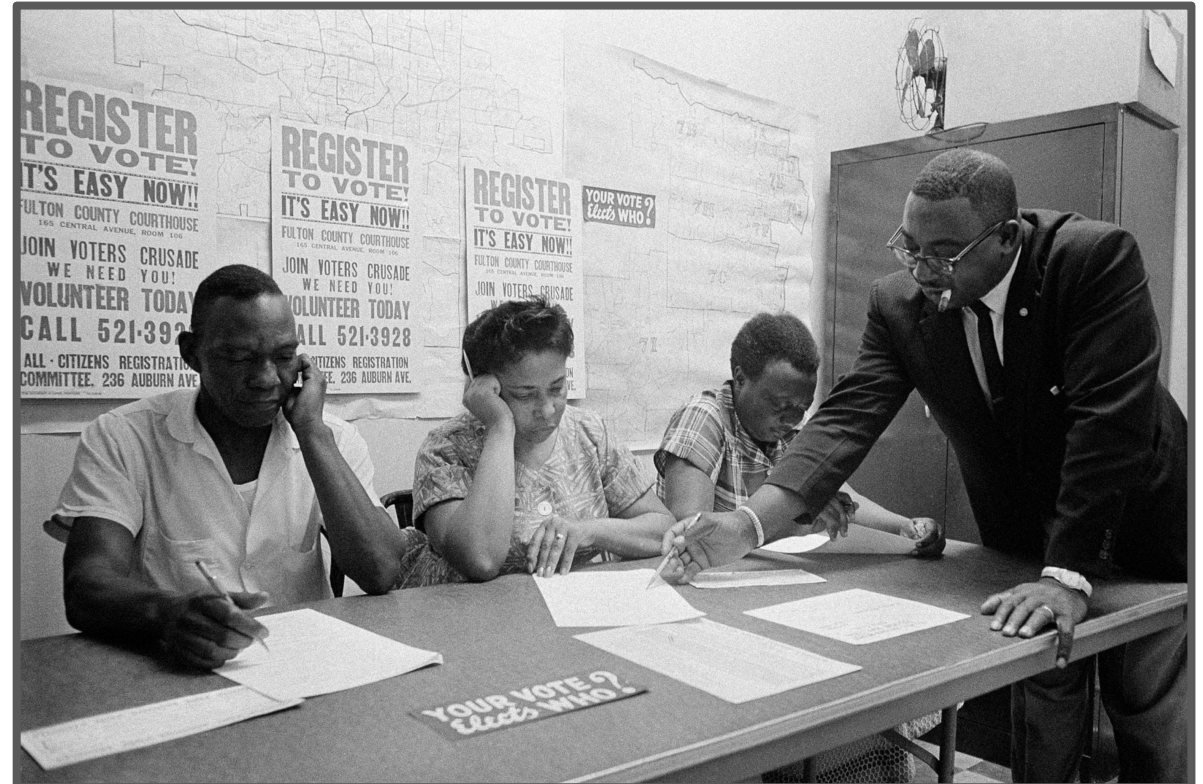
64—If the two houses of Congress cannot agree on adjournment, who sets the time?

65—When the presidential electors meet to cast ballots for President, must all electors in a state vote for the same person for President or can they vote for different persons if they so choose?

66—After the presidential electors have voted, to whom do they send the count of their votes?

67—The power to declare war is vested in

68—Any power and rights not given in the United States Constitution are prohibited to the states by the United States Constitution as specified as belonging to whom?



# Expanding the Vote—*If you can go to war, you should be able to vote!*

## BACKGROUND



## 26th Amendment

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.





# VOTING RIGHTS EXPANDED



## Improvements in the Voting Rights Act:

- 1975—Translated voting information
- 1982—Ease of access assistance for Americans with disabilities
- 1986—Overseas military and citizens
- 2000—Previous felons after sentences completed

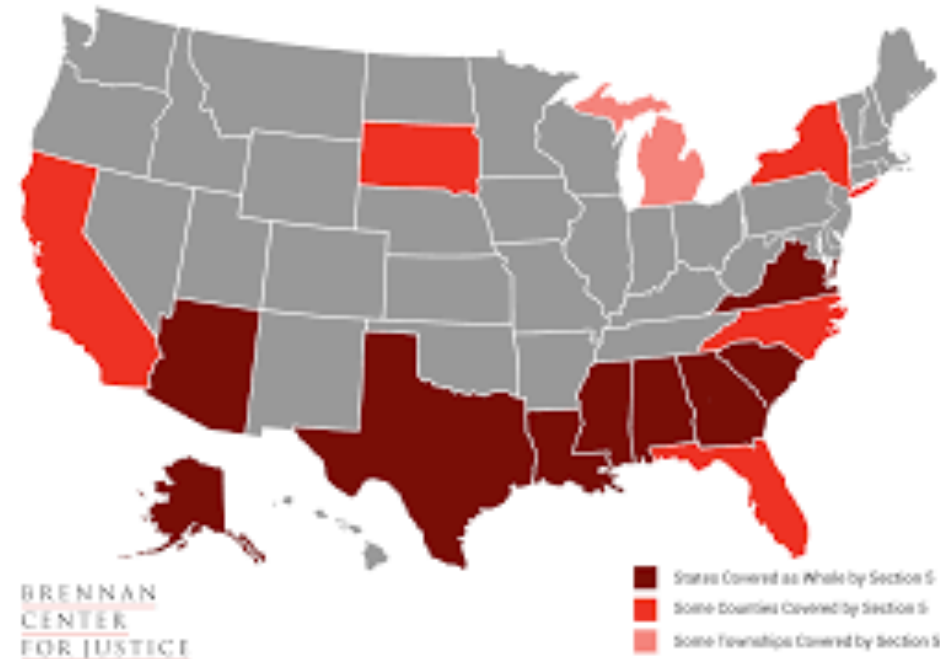
# Threats to the expansion of voting rights:

## 2010 *Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission*



## 2013 *Shelby County vs. Holder*

States Covered by Section 5 at the time of the Shelby County Decision



League of  
Women Voters:  
3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
Visual Arts  
Competition



## 3rd Annual Visual Arts Competition

On-line application form: [https://lwvpullman.org/docs/art%20competition/civics%20education/Visual\\_Arts\\_Competition/](https://lwvpullman.org/docs/art%20competition/civics%20education/Visual_Arts_Competition/)