SUFFRAGE IN THE UNITED STATES
THE FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO VOTE

Black Citizenship and the 14th Amendment
The 14th Amendment was signed into law on July 23, 1868. It granted citizenship to all people born or naturalized in the United States, including African Americans. This amendment also prohibited states from denying or depriving any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. However, despite the 14th Amendment, many African Americans were still denied the right to vote.

Women's Suffrage and the 19th Amendment
Women's suffrage was a long-fought battle that eventually led to the 19th Amendment, which was ratified on August 26, 1920. This amendment granted women the right to vote. Before this, women were not allowed to vote in most states, and even in states where they were allowed, they often faced significant obstacles. The fight for women's suffrage was led by a number of prominent women, including Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

First Election After the Voting Rights Act
The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was a landmark piece of civil rights legislation that aimed to eliminate barriers to voting faced by African Americans. The act prohibited states and local governments from using literacy tests, poll taxes, and other means to discriminate against voters. It also authorized federal examiners to register voters in states with a history of discrimination. The act had a significant impact on African American voter registration and turnout.

The Draft and the 26th Amendment
The 26th Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified in 1971, lowering the voting age from 21 to 18. This amendment was passed in response to widespread popular support for lowering the voting age, particularly among young people who felt they had an interest in their country's future.

Disenfranchised: Who's Still Fighting to Vote?

Voters Convicted of a Felony
The United States remains one of the world's toughest nations when it comes to the right to vote. A felony conviction can result in the loss of voting rights for many years, and in some cases, a lifetime. In most states, felons are prohibited from voting while they are incarcerated, on parole, or on probation. In some states, felons are prohibited from voting even after they have completed their sentences.

Voters Without a Valid ID
The requirement for voters to present a valid form of identification has been a controversial issue. States with strict voter ID laws have been accused of disenfranchising voters, particularly those from marginalized communities, such as African Americans and Latinos.

Disabled Voters
Disabled voters often face significant barriers to voting, such as physical disabilities that make it difficult to get to the polls. Some states have provisions for mail-in ballots or curbside voting to accommodate voters with disabilities.