

FREEDOM TO VOTE. FREEDOM FOR ALL.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT & THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

★ ★ OUR RIGHTS. OUR VOICES. OUR FUTURE. ★






SUPREME COURT DECISION TO SUSPEND PRECLEARANCE

In 2013, the Supreme Court ruled in *Shelby County v. Holder* to strike down the key provision of the Voting Rights Act that required certain states and counties with a history of discrimination to get federal approval before changing their voting laws.

The result: more barriers, fewer protections, and harder fights ahead.

VICTORY: THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

Signed into law on August 6, 1965, by President Lyndon B. Johnson, the Voting Rights Act was a turning point in our nation's history.

-  **BANNED DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES**
Outlawed literacy tests and other unfair methods used to deny voting rights.
-  **FEDERAL OVERSIGHT**
Required jurisdictions with a history of discrimination to get federal approval before changing voting laws or practices.
-  **PROTECTED THE RIGHT TO VOTE**
Opened the ballot box to millions of African Americans and strengthened our democracy.



"The right to vote is the foundation of all our rights." — Lyndon B. Johnson

★ THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT: PEOPLE. COURAGE. CHANGE. ★

KEY LEADERS



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
Preacher, leader, and voice for nonviolent change.



ROSA PARKS
Her courage sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott.



MALCOLM X
Advocate for Black rights and self-determination.



JOHN LEWIS
Leader, activist, and voice for voting rights.



FANNIE LOU HAMER
Fought for voting rights and equality for all.

KEY EVENTS THAT CHANGED AMERICA



1955–1956
MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT
Sparked by Rosa Parks' arrest, the boycott lasted 381 days and ended segregation on Montgomery buses.



1963
MARCH ON WASHINGTON
Over 250,000 people gathered for jobs and freedom. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech.



1964
CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964
Outlawed segregation and discrimination in public places, schools, employment, and federally funded programs.



1965
SELMA TO MONTGOMERY MARCHES
Peaceful protests in Selma, Alabama, led to national attention and the passage of the Voting Rights Act.



AUGUST 6, 1965
VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965
Signed into law to protect the right to vote and remove barriers to equal participation in our democracy.



TOWN HALL MEETING: A CALL TO ACTION

— JUNE 27, 2026 AT 10:00 A.M. —

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
MR. ROLAND S. MARTIN

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HELD AT
MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
18410 CHAPEL DRIVE, TRIANGLE, VA 22172



**YOUR
VOTE
COUNTS**

★ PANEL DISCUSSION—HEAR FROM YOUR CONGRESSIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEADERS ★