

## **The History of Voting**

**1776** – When this country announced its independence from Britain, voting rights were based on property ownership. This typically meant that those voting were white males over the age of 21 who were Protestant.

**1830** – Many states had dropped religion and property ownership as requirements for voting and with such a large percentage of the population at the polls, political parties began to develop.

**1870** – Two years after earning their right to citizenship, African-Americans were given the right to vote with the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment. IT prohibited any state or local government from denying that right.

**1920** – The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was added to the Constitution, giving women across the nation the right to vote.

**1940** – Congress recognized Native Americans as citizens. Seven year later, all states granted them the right to vote.

**1971** – The voting age is lowered to 18.