

What you might not have known about

THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

The Radiance Foundation celebrates one of the most significant pieces of civil rights legislation which was signed into law on August 6, 1965 to reinforce and expand what had already been made law by the 15th Amendment. No one could use racial discrimination to prevent Americans from voting. Violators would be prosecuted. The Voting Rights Act, or VRA, was justice that was long overdue.

WHO VOTED FOR IT?

% OF
DEMS



69%

% OF GOP



94%

(SENATE VOTES)

SOURCE: www.govtrack.us/congress/votes/89-1965/s78

IT BANNED EUGENICS-BASED LITERACY TESTS AS A PREREQUISITE TO VOTE.

28. Divide a vertical line in two equal parts by bisecting it with a curved horizontal line that is only straight at its spot bisection of the vertical.

This is an actual question (1 of 30) on a 1964 Louisiana Literacy Test. Hopeful voters had only 10 minutes to answer all questions correctly.

IT GAVE AUTHORITY TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO PROSECUTE THOSE WHO USED POLL TAXES TO VIOLATE THE VRA.



WHO VOTED AGAINST IT?

% OF DEMOCRATS



24%

% OF
GOP



6%

(SENATE VOTES)

SOURCE: www.govtrack.us/congress/votes/89-1965/s78

THE 15TH AMENDMENT ALREADY GAVE BLACK MEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE. WHO VOTED FOR THAT?

(HOUSE VOTES)

% OF
DEMS



0%

% OF REPUBLICANS



80%

SOURCE: www.govtrack.us/congress/votes/40-3/h647

SOME IN CONGRESS DIDN'T LIKE THE AMENDMENT TO THE VRA WHICH PUNISHED THOSE USING POLL TAXES.

% OF DEMS



54% 22%

% OF
GOP



(SENATE VOTES)

SOURCE: www.govtrack.us/congress/votes/89-1965/s56

