

Male Suffrage

- Prior to the Revolution
 - Voting limited to white protestant males owning land
- After the Revolution
 - Influence of Declaration of Independence
 - Soldiers demanded the right to vote
 - Vote expanded to white males paying taxes

Male Suffrage, continued

- After the Revolution
 - Why not extended to everyone
 - Must contribute to society
 - Too much power to the poor
 - 1840s suffrage extended to all white males

Black Male Suffrage

- Constitutional Amendments
 - 13th freed slaves
 - 15th gave former slaves the right to vote

Young Americans Suffrage

- 26th Amendment (1971) lowered voting age to 18
- Why
 - Vietnam War

Declining Voter Turnout?

- I. NO decline, just vote differently
 - Parties printed own ballots
 - Ballots were cast in public
 - Parties controlled the counting
 - Voter eligibility
 - Australian ballot – Voting in Secret

Declining Voter Turnout?, continued

- II. YES, a real decline in turnout
 - Higher youth & minority populations
 - Less likely to vote
 - Less party influence
 - Voter responsibility
 - Disenfranchisement from politics
 - Voter Registration
 - **Motor-Voter Law** – attempted to increase voter registration by allowing people to register when they renew their drivers license or through the mail.

Why Voter Registration

- Prevents voter fraud
 - People voting more than once
 - Having dead people vote
- Protects integrity of election
 - Felons cannot vote
 - Illegal aliens

Who is More Likely to Vote

- More educated
- Older citizens
- Women
- Whites
- Church goers
- Higher income
- Live in politically active community

How Voters Decided Who to Vote For

- Party Identification
- Issue and Party Positions
- Candidate Attributes
