

# Fighting for Voting Rights



-barred states from depriving citizens the right to vote “on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude”

-also gave Congress the “power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation”

-Yet, from the end of Reconstruction, Southern states set up both practical & legal barriers to keep African Americans from voting

## **Fifteenth Amendment (1870)**

\*literacy test

\*poll tax

-grandfather clause  
(January 1, 1867)



## Voting Restrictions

## Alabama Literacy Test (1940s)

- Does enumeration affect the income tax levied on citizens in various states?
- A United States Senator elected at the general election in November takes office the following year on what date?
- How many states were required to approve the original Constitution in order for it to be in effect?
- Who passes laws dealing with piracy?
- On the impeachment of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who tries the case?
- After the presidential electors have voted, to whom do they send the count of their votes?
- If the two houses of Congress cannot agree on adjournment, who sets the time?
- Of the original 13 states, the one with the largest representation in the first Congress was \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Congress decides in what manner states elect presidential electors. True or false?

# Alabama Literacy Test

1964-CORE & SNCC workers-voter registration in the South

- hoping to draw attention to lack of voting rights & to promote passage of a federal voting rights act
- college students recruited & trained in nonviolent resistance
  - 1000s, mostly white, about 1/3 female-Mississippi

**Freedom Summer**

# MISSING CALL FBI

THE FBI IS SEEKING INFORMATION CONCERNING THE DISAPPEARANCE AT PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI OF THESE THREE INDIVIDUALS ON JUNE 21, 1964. EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION IS BEING CONDUCTED TO LOCATE GOODMAN, CRANEY, AND SCHWERNER, WHO ARE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS.

**ANDREW GOODMAN**



**JAMES EARL CRANEY**



**MICHAEL HENRY SCHWERNER**



## A Dangerous Endeavor



- organized by SNCC to gain seats in Mississippi's all-white Democratic Party
- Fannie Lou Hamer
- Pres. Johnson's response
  - compromise
    - MFDP & supporters in SNCC felt betrayed



## Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP)



# 1965-SCLC begins a major voting campaign

(SNCC had been working to register voters here for 2 years)

-by the end of the year, more than 2,000 African-Americans had been arrested in SCLC demonstrations

-Jimmy Lee Jackson's murder

-King's response: 50 mile march from Selma to Montgomery (starts with 600 marchers on March 7, 1965/ends with 25,000 by end of the month)

-media captures all of it including the violence

## The Campaign in Selma



## March from Selma to Montgomery



**Violence captured by the media**



Discovery  
EDUCATION

-banned literacy tests

-federal examiners could enroll voters who had been denied suffrage by local officials

-the percentage of registered A-A voters in the South tripled

-In signing the bill into law, President Johnson described it as "one of the most monumental laws in the entire history of American freedom."

## **Voting Rights Act of 1965**



Discovery  
EDUCATION