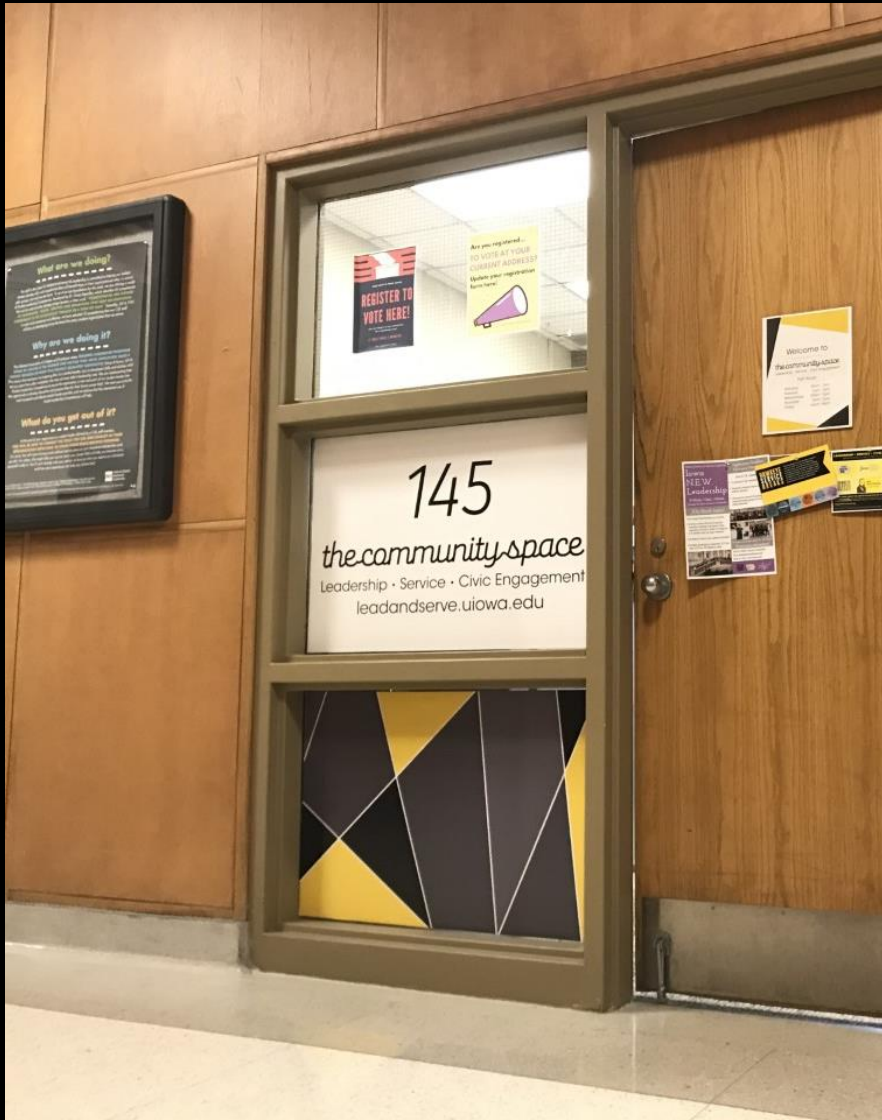


HAWK THE **VOTE**

The History of Voter Suppression



Who are we?

- Hawk the Vote is a non-partisan student initiative on campus working to increase voter registration, education, and turn-out.
- We are a team of 4 undergraduate students that are passionate about voter engagement
- Part of the Office of Leadership, Service and Civic Engagement
- We normally hold office hours in IMU 145



Election Resources

- Vote.uiowa.edu
 - Info on voter registration, absentee ballots, in-person voting
 - Candidate guides for local, state, and federal elections
 - Access to a voter hotline for quick voting questions
- Johnson County Auditor's Office
 - Has lots of information about special elections
 - Office that handles voter registration and absentee ballot request forms
 - Call this office for Voter ID Pin (for ABRF)



Ways to Vote

- **Early**

- In Iowa, early voting can run for up to a month before Election Day (Oct. 5th). No matter where you live in the county, anyone can vote early at locations found on the auditor's website.

- **Absentee**

- If you prefer to vote by mail, you can request an absentee ballot and mail it in before Election Day. As long as you request before the deadline (Oct. 18th) and drop it in the mailbox before Election Day, you're good to go.

- **Election Day**

- If you love the thrill of voting on Election Day (Nov. 2nd), you will need to go to your specified location that can be found online. All polling locations have been modified for health reasons

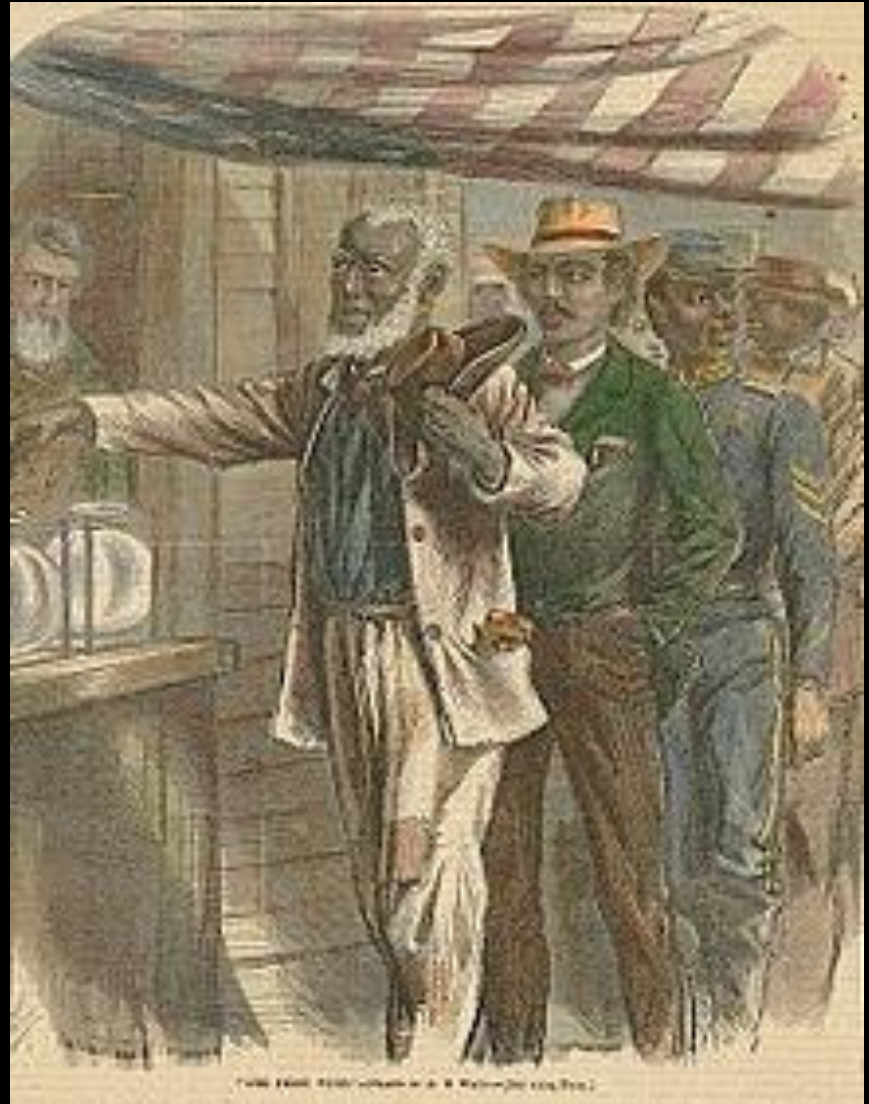


The History of the Right to Vote

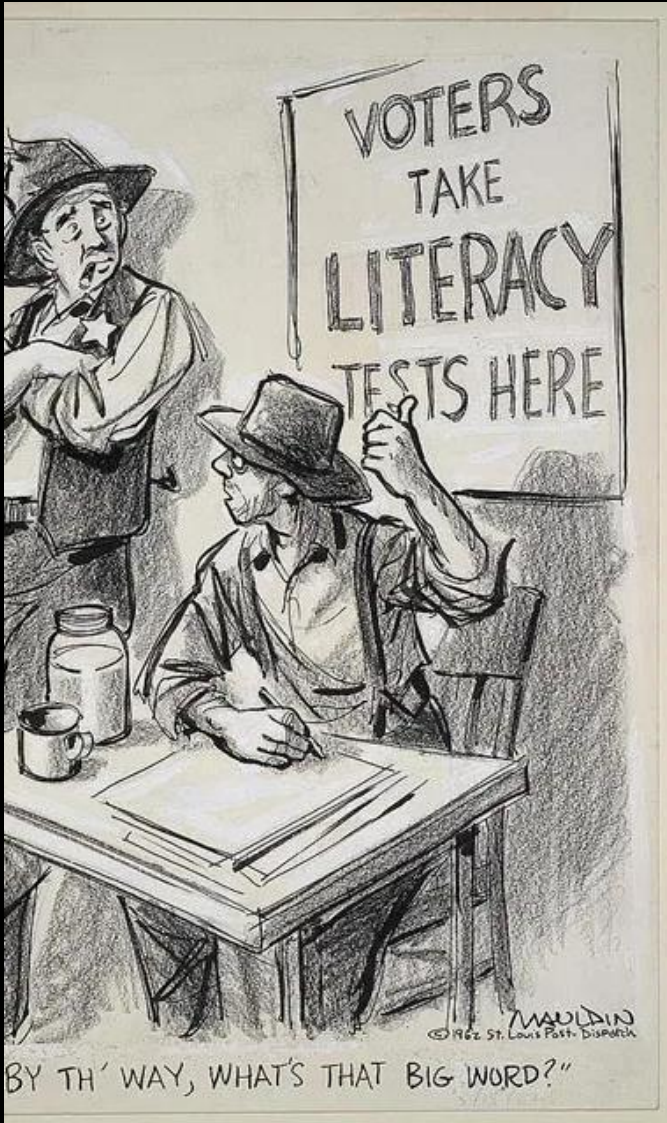
- Interestingly enough, the right to vote wasn't explicitly guaranteed in the US Constitution when it was originally ratified
- The Founding Fathers dictated that each state could decide how Representatives and Senators were elected, not the federal government
- This allowed for wealthy, white men to remain in power for a long time

The Civil War and Voting Rights

- 15th Amendment which forbade denying someone the right to vote based on "race, color, or previous condition of servitude."
- First time the federal government gave directives on how states must run their elections
- This only led to widespread voter suppression which lasted for decades to come



Historical Forms of Voter Suppression



- In reaction to the Reconstruction Era, mainly white southern Democrats sought to intimidate black voters
- In 1890, Mississippi held a statewide convention aimed at circumventing the 15th Amendment
- Their strategies included poll taxes and literacy tests on top of the intimidation and harassment
- Within 5 years, all southern states adopted similar measures that came to be known as Jim Crow Laws

The Effects of Jim Crow

- By 1892, Mississippi had decreased Black male voter registration from 90% to 6%
- These laws, along with the emergence of the Ku Klux Klan allowed for white supremacists to remain in power
- Side Note: the term "Jim Crow" came from white comedian and minstrel, Thomas Rice, and became a nick name for black people



24th Amendment and the 1965 Voting Rights Act



- In 1964, after a decade of the civil rights movement the states ratified the 24th amendment, forbidding poll taxes
- In 1965, the federal government passed the voting rights act, the most comprehensive election reform in US history
 - It made all Jim Crow strategies illegal
 - Set up federal oversight over localities with a history of voter discrimination
- In 2013, the Supreme Court rolled back the provision allowing federal oversight on localities



VOTES
FOR
WOMEN

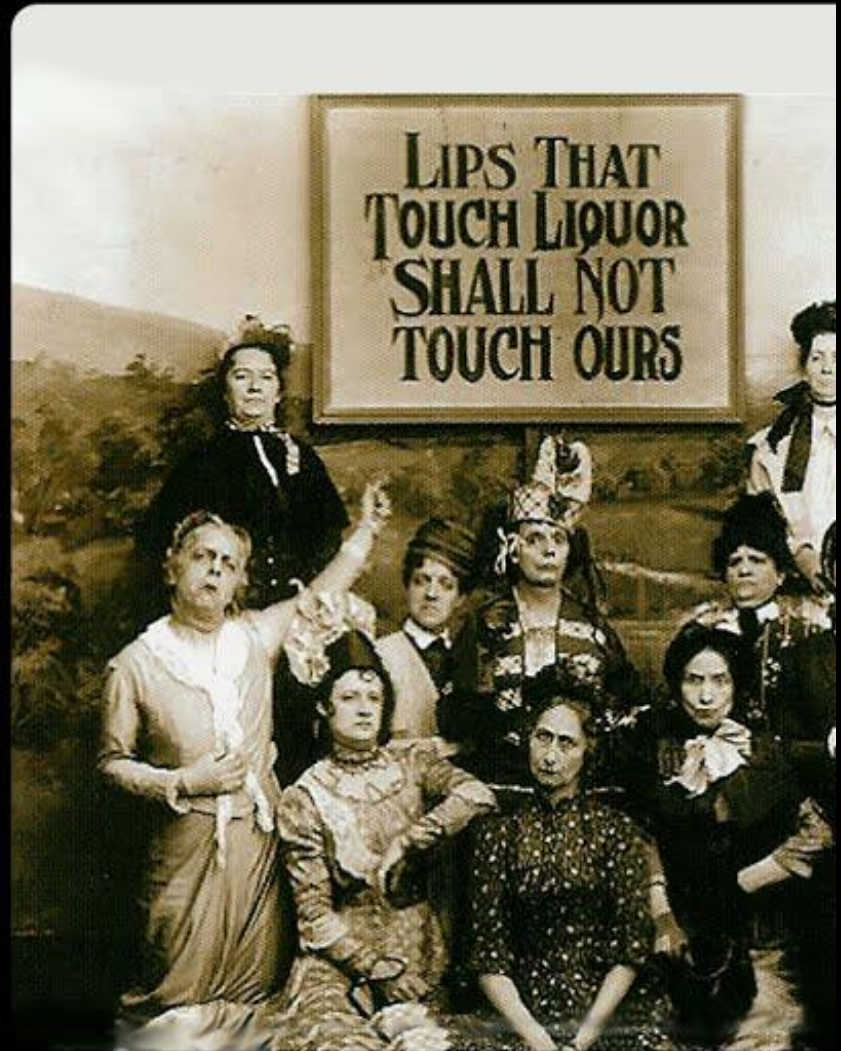
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HAWK THE
VOTE

Let's start from the beginning

- During the 1820s and 30s, a social revolution occurred
- Many new activist groups were formed, and their most prominent members were women
- As women gained more power outside of the home, debates started on what it meant to be a woman and mother





Seneca Falls Convention: 1848

- A group of abolitionist men and women met in Seneca Falls, New York to discuss women's rights
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott planned and organized this convention
- "We hold these truths to be self-evident." - Declaration of Sentiments. What truths? The truth that all men and women are created equal and have the same inalienable rights

19th Amendment: August 18th, 1920

- Women advocated for themselves through the civil war, during reconstruction and WWI
- Some states like Utah and Idaho granted women the right to vote before the 19th amendment was ratified
- Because of the work women did during WWI, this persuaded many that women were just as patriotic as men and therefore were deserving of the right to vote
- This wasn't without much inner controversies within the suffragist movement. Many times, centralized suffragist organizations split due to contentious debates

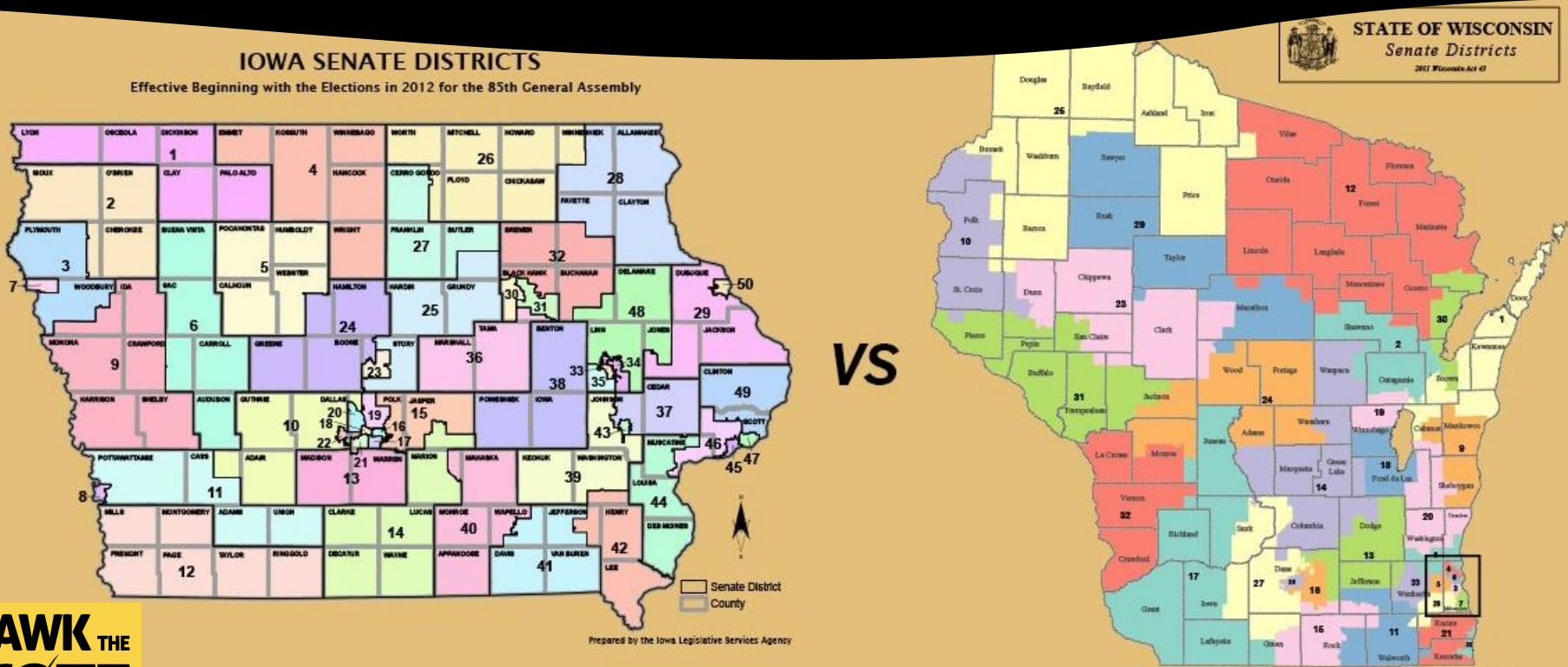
Hold up, that's not the end of the story



- Although the right to vote was afforded to white women, women of color were still disenfranchised
- Also, women of color were sidelined throughout the entire suffragist movement
- Most notably, Sojourner Truth gave her “Ain’t I a Woman” speech in 1851 in Akron, Ohio at the Women’s Rights Convention
- It wasn’t until August 6th, 1965 when Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act that women of color were guaranteed the right to vote without discrimination

Voter Suppression still exists today

- One of the most notable ways to suppress voter's power is through gerrymandering
- Closing of polling locations, voter ID laws, signature match, and other obstacles prevent many individuals from voting
- Getting involved in politics doesn't mean you have to support one party or another. You can be an advocate for change because it's the right thing to do



Questions?

Follow us [@votehawk](#) on Twitter and Instagram

Email us dsl-hawkthevote@uiowa.edu

Visit our website vote.uiowa.edu

