

# VOTING

# Voting Terms

- ⦿ Right to Vote= suffrage
- ⦿ Right to Vote= franchise
- ⦿ Electorate=the potential voting population
- ⦿ Current US electorate: around 220 million people

# Expansion of Voting Rights

## ⦿ Early 1800s:

- elimination of religious qualifications
- Elimination of tax payment and property ownership qualifications

## ⦿ Post Civil War:

- 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1870) protected any citizen from being denied the right to vote because of race or color
- However, African Americans were prevented from voting

# Early 1900s

- 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1920) gave women the right to vote
- Wyoming gave women the vote in 1869

# 1960s

- ◎ 1965 Voting Rights Act
  - Federal legislation gave African Americans a full role in the electoral process
- ◎ 24<sup>th</sup> Amendment eliminated the poll tax for voting

# Voter Qualifications

- ◎ Universal (every state):
  - Citizenship
    - Must be an American citizen
  - Residence
    - Must live in a state a certain amount of time in order to vote
    - Why?
      - To keep politicians from bribing non residents to come to a location and vote
      - Allow new voters to become familiar with local candidates and issues

# Voter Qualifications

## ● Age

- 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1971) extends suffrage to citizens who are at least 18 years old
- Prior to the 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment, states usually made the age for voting 21

# Other Qualifications

- Registration: a procedure of voter identification
- Must register name, age, place of birth, address, length of residence, etc.