

It Is the LAW

by Barbara Magalnick

Fun Facts

- In 1971 the 26th Amendment lowered the voting age from twenty-one to eighteen.
- At forty-three, John F. Kennedy was the youngest man to be elected President. Ronald Reagan, at sixty-nine, was the oldest.
- New Jersey was the first state to allow women to vote.


Genre	Comprehension Skill	Text Features
Nonfiction	Main Idea and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glossary • Captions • Illustrations

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 Voting is very important. You are going to read about voting laws in the United States and how they have changed. Read about each change. Think about what these changes mean.

 **Vocabulary**

citizen
freedom
Congress



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In the Constitution the Founding Fathers wrote a law about voting. Not every **citizen** had the right to vote then.



The pioneers were looking for land.



It became harder to find farmland. People began to move west. Women in the West would be some of the first women to vote.



Thomas Jefferson and James Madison





Abraham Lincoln wanted to give enslaved people **freedom**.

The 15th Amendment gave voting rights to African American men.

An amendment is a change to the Constitution.



African American men were given the right to vote after the Civil War.



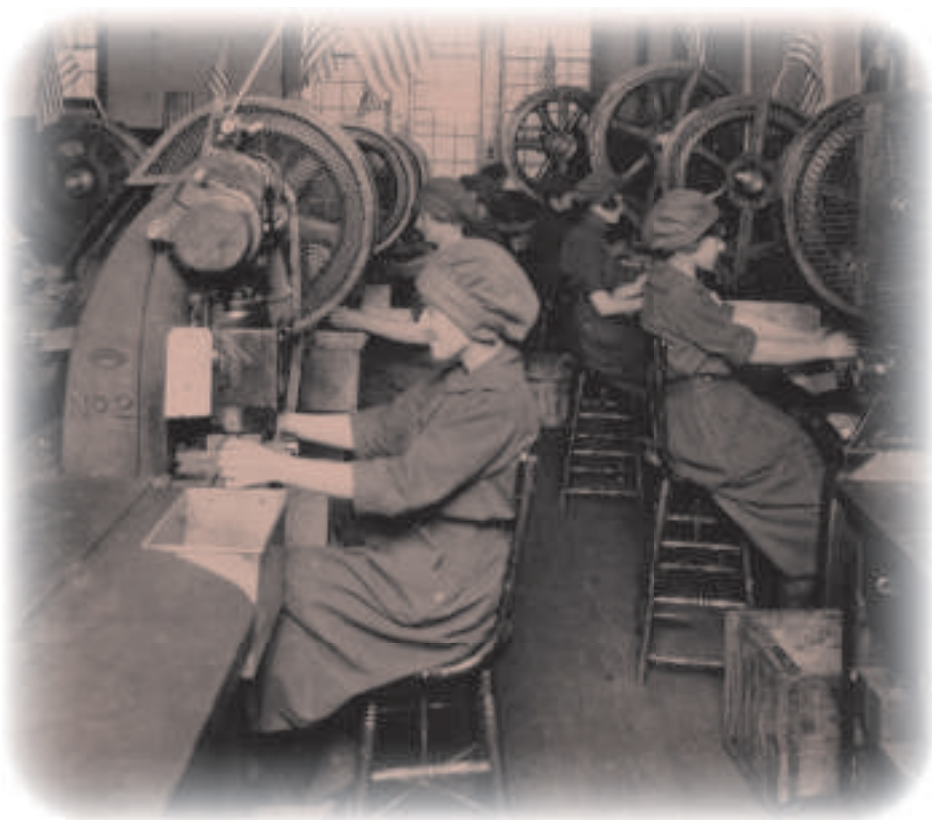
Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton




Some states had laws that kept women from voting.

Some women did not agree with those laws. Two women who worked to change these laws were Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.





 Some women worked in factories.

 The 19th Amendment to the Constitution was passed by **Congress** in 1919. Women could now vote.



Today all citizens over the age of eighteen can vote.
Equal voting rights are the law.



Voting is an important right!





Glossary

citizen a member of a country

Congress the part of the United States government that writes and votes on our laws

freedom every citizen's right to make choices

Write to It!

If someone asked you why it is important to vote, what would you say? Write a short paragraph about your ideas.

Write your paragraph on another sheet of paper.

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