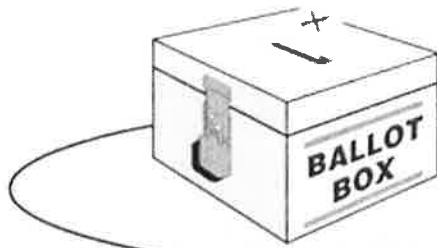


## The 15th Amendment



The 15th Amendment gave African American men the right to vote, North and South.

The 15th Amendment took effect in 1870. Keep in mind that it did not grant women the right to vote. That did not come until 50 years later.

### Amendment 15

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

*- from the 15th Amendment, ratified as part of the U.S. Constitution in 1870*

Citizens have the right to vote, no matter what race, color, or whether they were once slaves.

Congress can pass laws to enforce this Amendment.

### The Reconstruction Amendments



13<sup>th</sup>  
14<sup>th</sup>  
15<sup>th</sup>

The 15th Amendment was the third of the Reconstruction Amendments passed after the Civil War. These Amendments - the 13th, 14th, and 15th - help guarantee all citizens fair and equal treatment under the law.