

# U.S. Constitutional Amendments

## The 15th Amendment

# FAST FACTS



Passed by Congress:

February 26, 1869

Ratified:

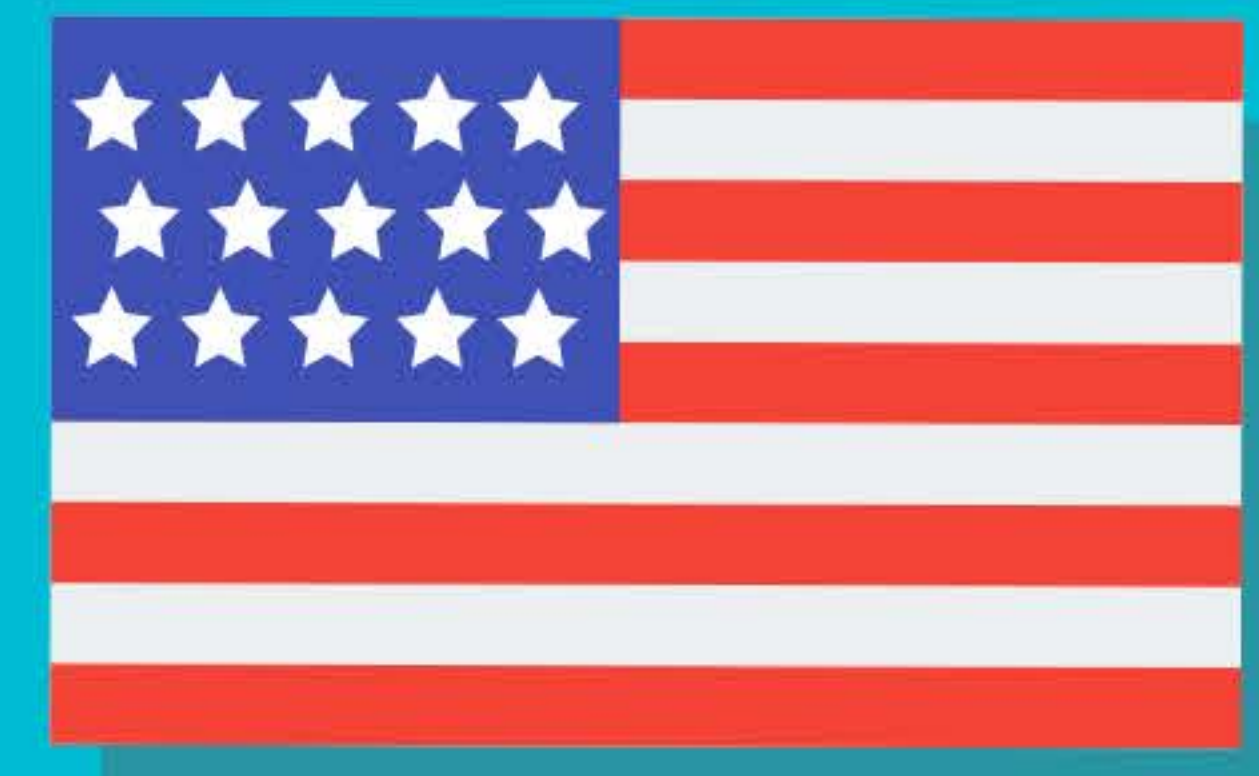
February 3, 1870



**Sections**

**#1**

“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.”



**#2**



Congress has the power to enforce this amendment by law.



African American men could legally vote...

and even though the 15th Amendment was passed, it was almost 100 years before African Americans could actually vote.

**Poll Taxes**



From the 1890s to 1966, poll taxes were fees paid to vote. It was a legal way to keep African Americans from voting in southern states.

**Jim Crow Laws**

People in the South used different ways to stop African Americans from voting. One way was to pass laws that legalized racial segregation. The laws were called Jim Crow Laws.



**Reading Tests**

Unfair reading tests were used to block African Americans from voting.



Intimidation and violence were used to prevent African Americans and others (like American Indians and Latinos) from exercising their right to vote. The 15th Amendment was ratified in 1870, but many African American people were disenfranchised (denied the right to vote) until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed.

