Name: _____

Creating An App

You will be creating an informational app that city officials can give people to use. The goal of the app is to provide citizens with information on potential obstacles to voting that they might encounter and how to overcome them. You will be creating a home screen for your app and then 3 different screens for your app for each of the obstacles you discuss. The obstacles to voting can be obstacles from the past or present day obstacles.

Step 1: Plan your app

What is the name of your app?

Which obstacles to voting will you discuss in your app? Be sure to read over the Sources handout and use at least one source on each obstacle screen. You can cut the sources out to paste on your screen or use the information you learned about the source for that screen. Make sure to include words, pictures, and symbols on your obstacle to voting screens. Think about how some people may not be able to read English or some people may be blind. Could your app talk to people?

Obstacle to voting # 1:

Notes on source(s) to use:

Obstacle to voting # 2:

Notes on source(s) to use:

Obstacle to voting # 3:
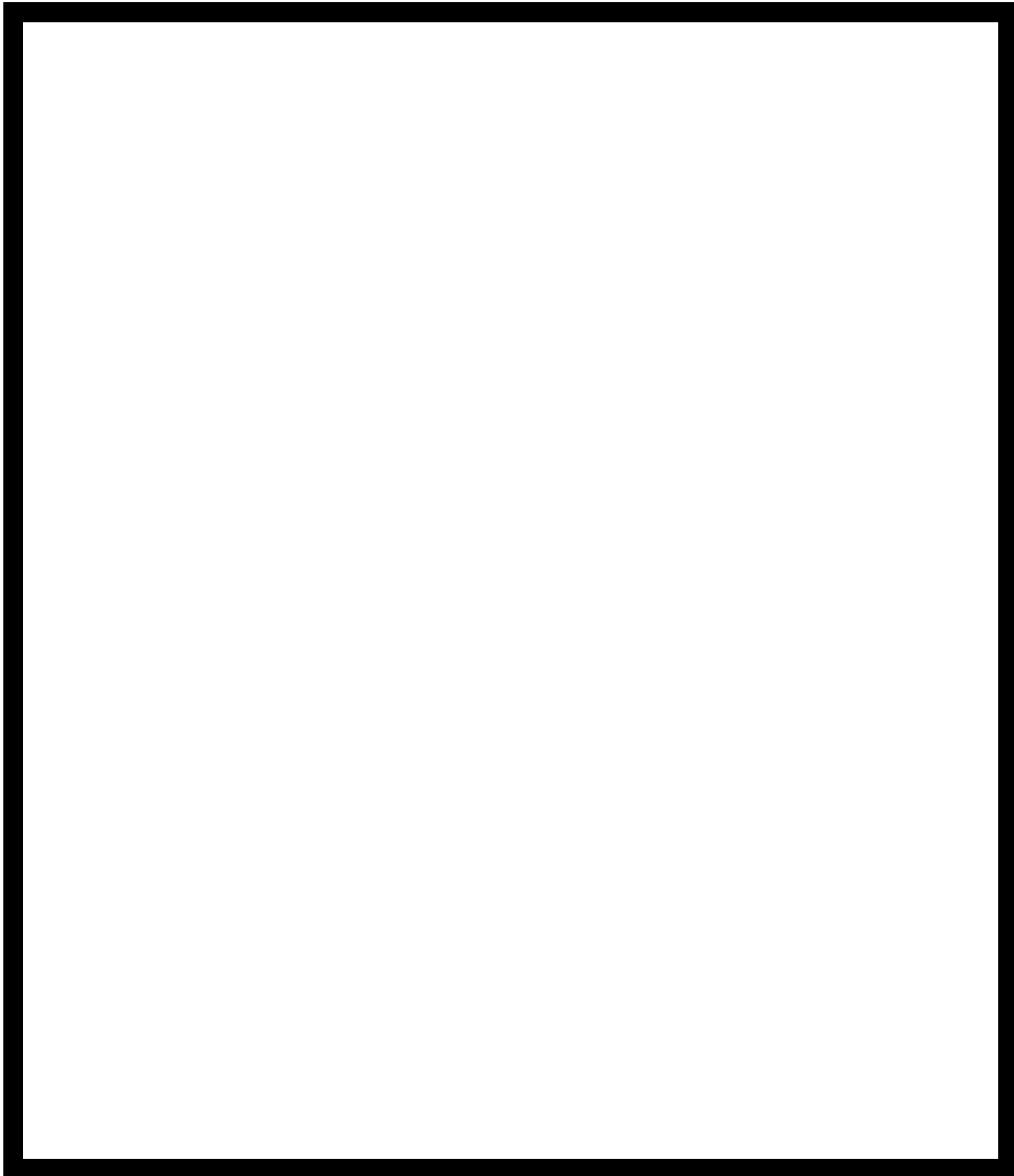
Notes on source(s) to use:

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Creating An App

Step 2: Design your home screen
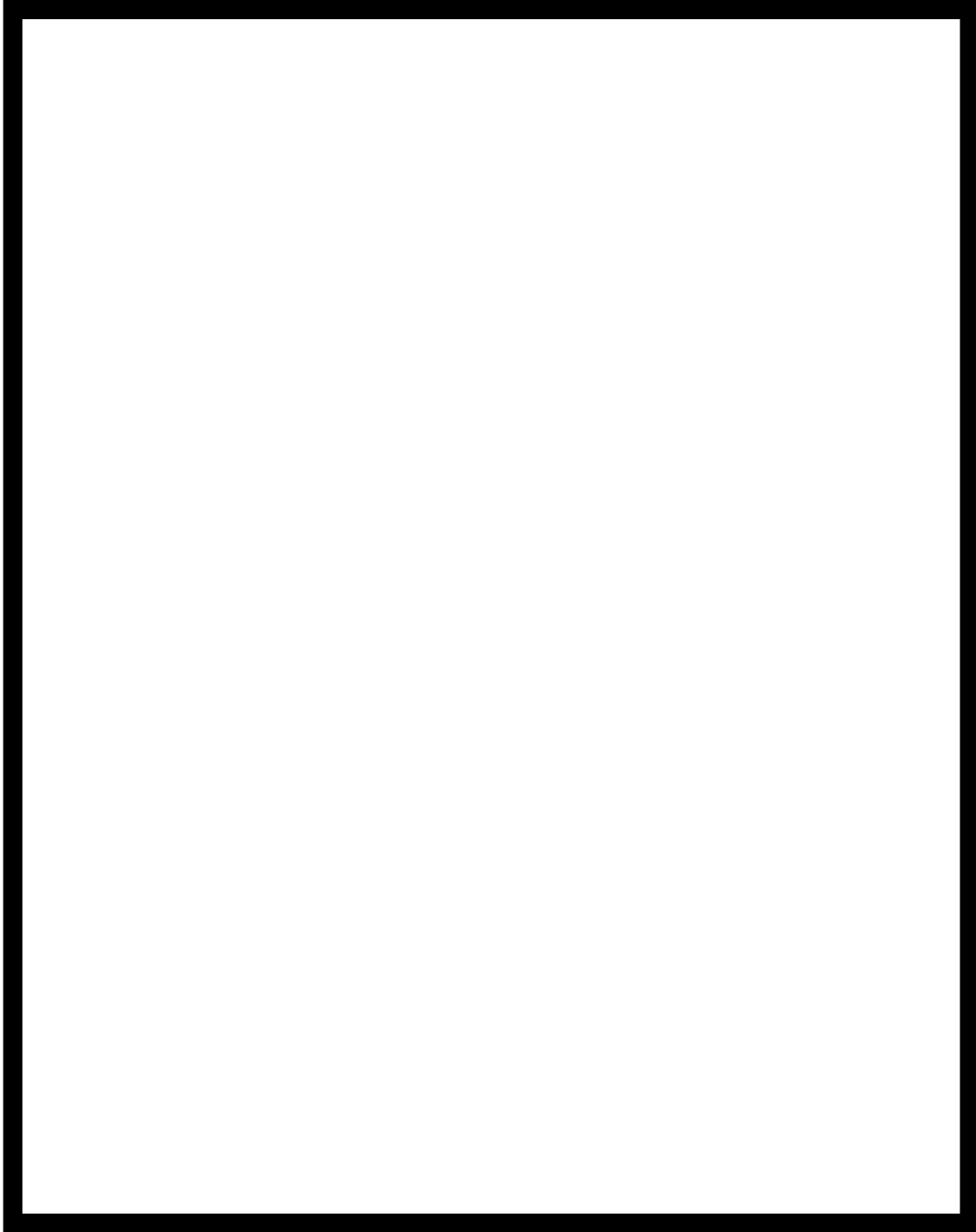
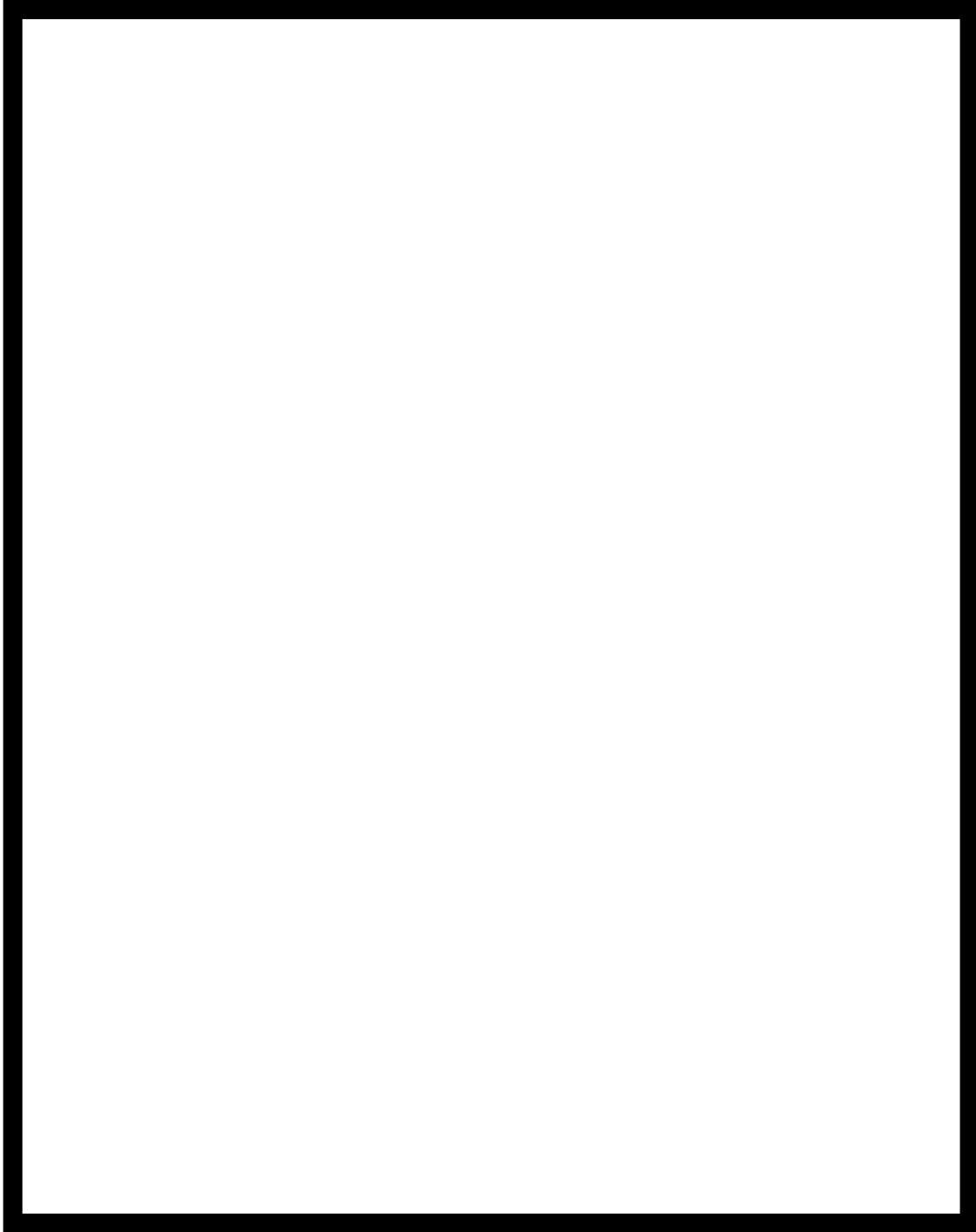The home screen should include how people login, the name of your app, and a picture

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Voting Obstacle Screen #1

Remember to include the obstacle to voting, solution to overcoming obstacle, and at least one source.

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Name: _____

Voting Obstacle Screen #2

Remember to include the obstacle to voting, solution to overcoming obstacle, and at least one source.

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Name: _____

Voting Obstacle Screen #3

Remember to include the obstacle to voting, solution to overcoming obstacle, and at least one source.
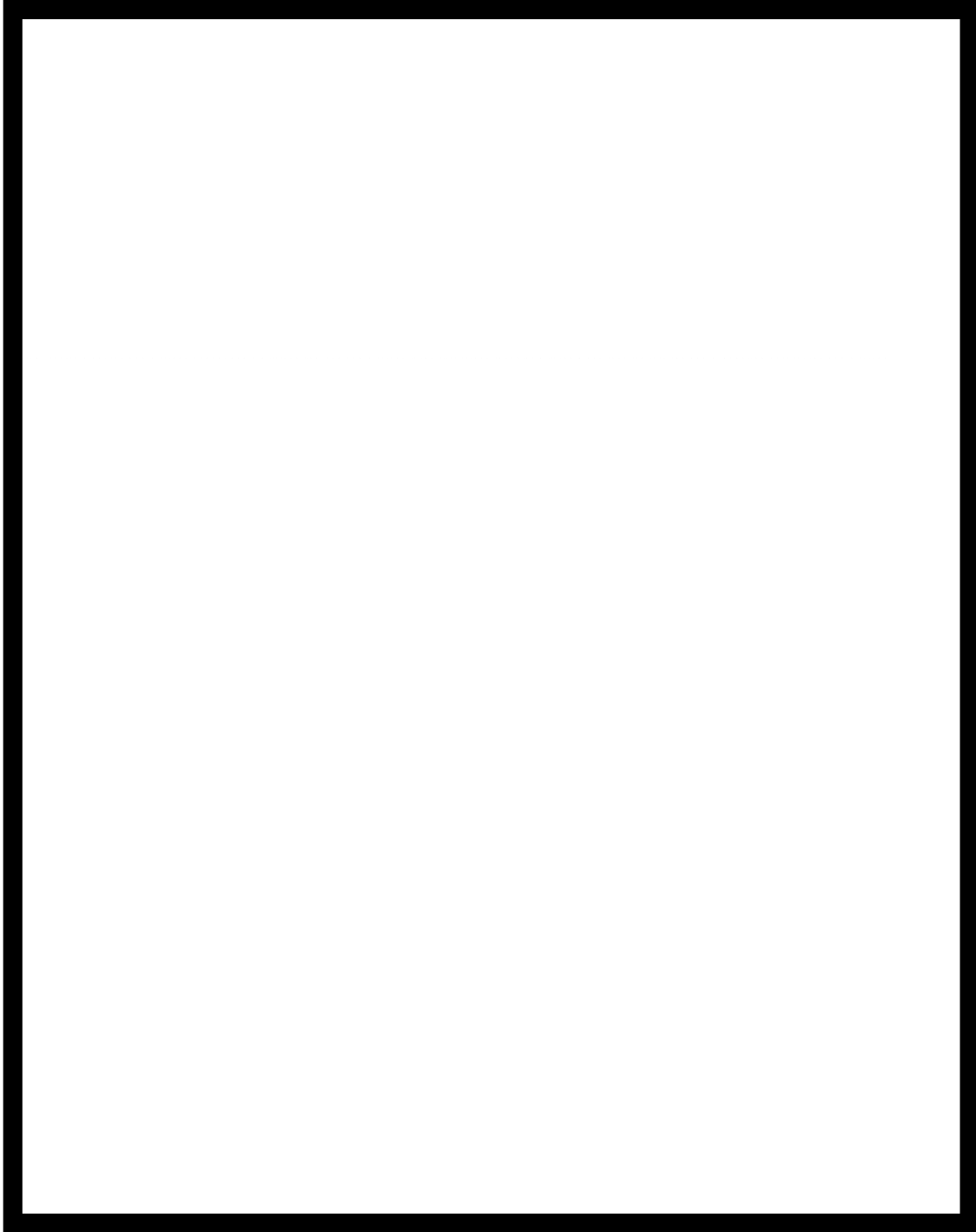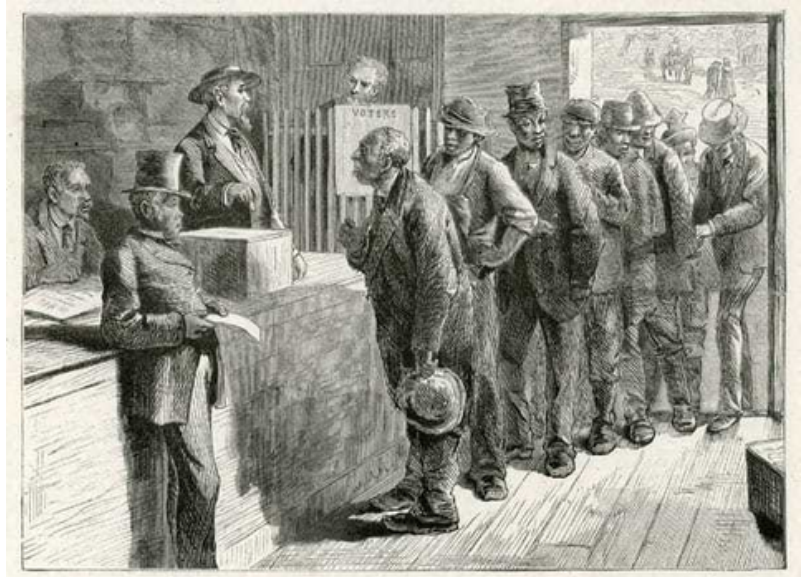
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Sources

Source: Library of Congress

When the United States had its first presidential election, only white land-owning men were allowed to vote.
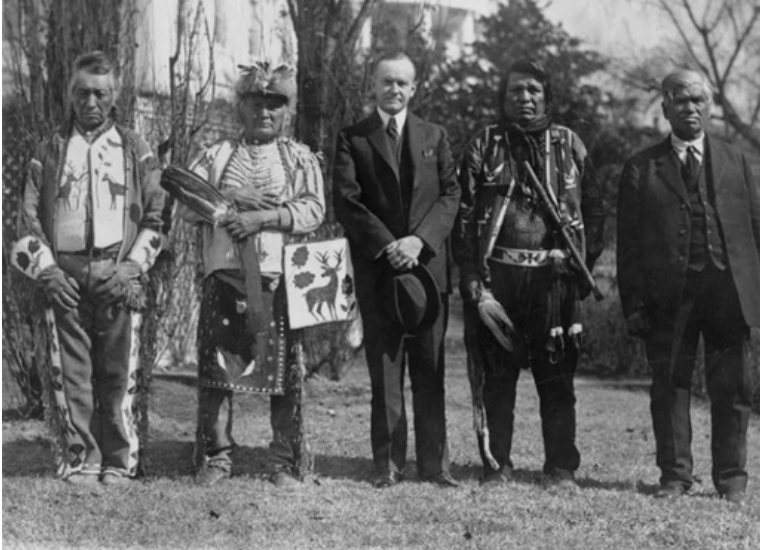

Source: Library of Congress

The 15th Amendment of 1870 said that all men, regardless of skin color, could vote. This is a drawing of the first African American man casting his vote.

Source: American Civil Liberties Union

Women were not able to vote until the 19th Amendment was added to the Constitution in 1920. The 19th Amendment says that women could not be denied the right to vote in the United States.

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Sources

Source: Library of Virginia

In 1924, Native Americans got the right to vote with the Indian Citizenship Act. This is an image of President Calvin Coolidge standing with members of the Sioux nation after the citizenship act was passed.

https://whowhatwhy.org/2018/01/18/voter-suppression-may-important-issue-2018/

Voter suppression is when people aren't allowed to vote even though they should legally be able to do so. The people in this photo march in protest of voter suppression, which is still a problem today.
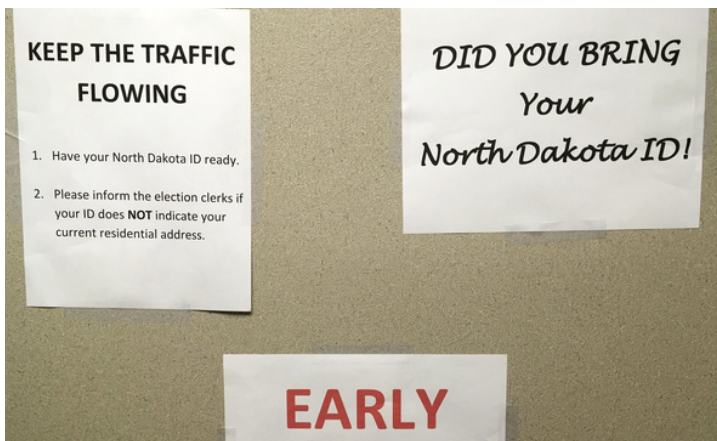
Source: National Public Radio

In 2018, North Dakota said voters had to have IDs with street addresses. Native Americans live on reservations, and reservations do not usually have street names, so their IDs wouldn't meet the voting requirement. Some say this is voter suppression.

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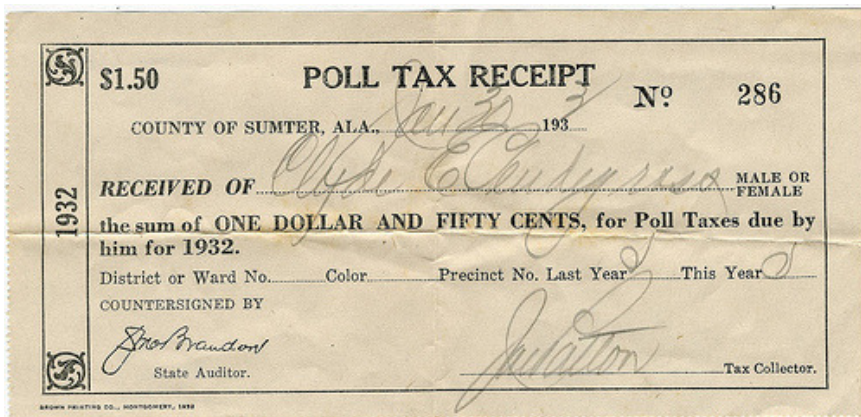ADVENTURES

Sources

The State of Louisiana
Literacy Test (This test is to be given to anyone who cannot prove a fifth grade education.)
Do what you are told to do in each statement, nothing more, nothing less. Be careful as one wrong answer denotes failure of the test. You have 10 minutes to complete the test.

1. Draw a line around the number or letter of this sentence.
2. Draw a line under the last word in this line.
3. Cross out the longest word in this line.
4. Draw a line around the shortest word in this line.
5. Circle the first, first letter of the alphabet in this line.
6. In the space below draw three circles, one inside (engulfed by) the other.

Source: Southern Poverty Law Center

State and local laws that kept non-white people from doing things white people could do were called "Jim Crow" laws. An example of a Jim Crow law was requiring black people to take a reading test before voting. Not only did whites get to skip the test, but the tests themselves were often difficult for most people to pass.

POLL TAX RECEIPT
$1.50   COUNTY OF SUMTER, ALA.,   193   Nº 286
1932
RECEIVED OF   MALE OR FEMALE
the sum of ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS, for Poll Taxes due by him for 1932.
District or Ward No.   Color   Precinct No. Last Year   This Year
COUNTERSIGNED BY
State Auditor.   Tax Collector.

Source: Southern Poverty Law Center

Another example of a Jim Crow law was requiring black people to pay a poll tax. A poll tax was a payment that was required before someone could legally vote. The poll tax was used to discourage non-white people from voting.

Source: The New York Times

This photo shows young people marching in 1969 to lower the voting age. During the Vietnam War, young people pointed out that if they were old enough to fight in war, they were old enough to vote in elections. Until 1971, the voting age was 21.

Lesson: Voting Obstacles

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Sources

Source: USA Today

This is a photo of people standing in a very long line to vote. In recent years, election officials have closed thousands of voting stations. This causes the voting booths that are open to have extremely long lines. Minority, rural, and low income voters are most affected by less voting stations. This is because they often cannot take off work to stand in long lines or drive long distances to open voting stations.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union:
- Approximately 1 in 10 Americans do not have a government-issued photo ID.
- Approximately 1 in 4 African-Americans do not have a government-issued photo ID.
- Fifteen percent of Americans who earn less than $35,000 a year do not have a government-issued photo ID.
- After record voter turnout in 2008, more than 25 states introduced voter suppression legislation. This legislation includes stricter ID laws, shorter voting periods, and removing early voting opportunities.

States With New Voting Restrictions Since the 2010 Election

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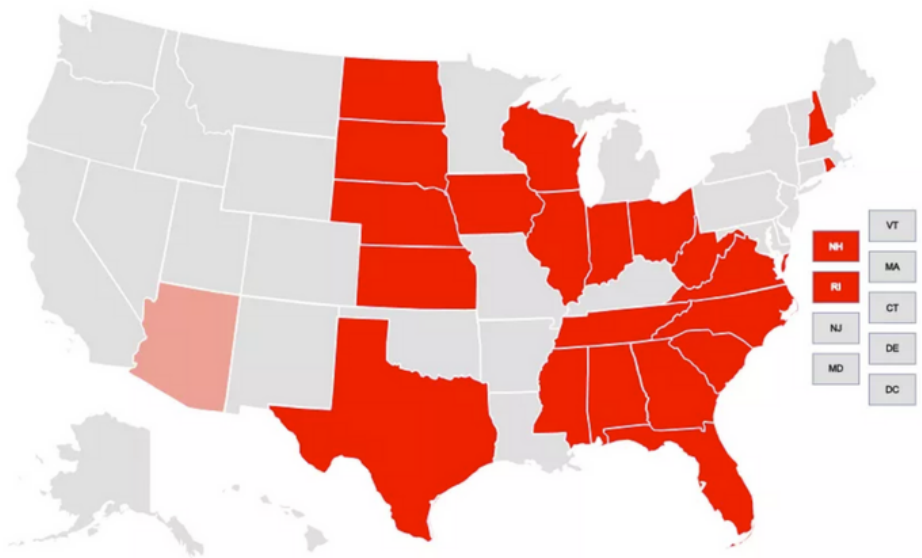
Sources

Source: Twitter

This a sign that was posted at a New York City voting station. States are not required to provide voting ballots and instructions in languages other than English. This is a problem in a state like New York where 2 million New Yorkers are not fluent in English. States like Minnesota provide voter registration forms in 6 languages other than English. However, online voter registration forms in Minnesota are only in English.
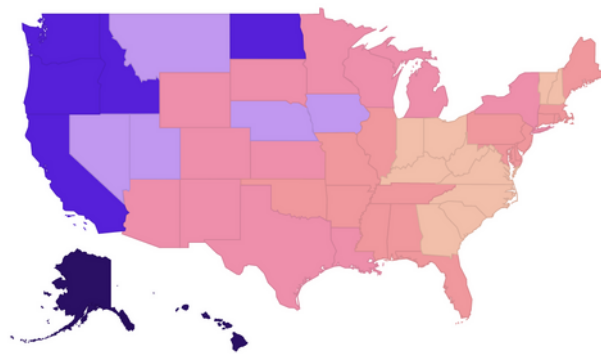

Source: Ballotpedia

This is a map showing the times that state polling stations open and close. States that have a darker shade are open later. Most states have polling stations open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. This may seem like a long time, however, these are the hours that most people have to be at work. Many people who work are not able to go into work late or leave early to vote. It is also difficult for people who have children to vote because most schools end around 3 p.m. Voters would need to bring their children to the voting station or find child care.
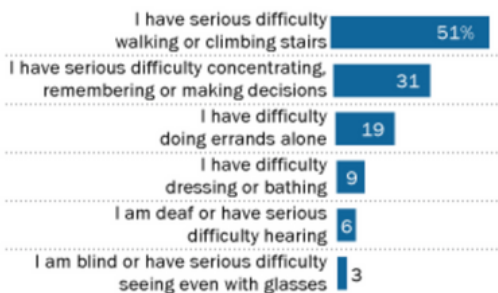
Source: Pew Research Center

Did you know that 1 in 4 Americans have a disability? This means that millions of Americans may find it difficult to go to a voting station or vote without assisted reading or hearing devices. In 2002, Congress passed the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). This law required that every voting station have at least one voting machine that was accessible for voters with disabilities and language barriers. While HAVA was an important law, there are still many obstacles to voting for people with disabilities. For example, it can be difficult for people with disabilities to travel to polling stations, especially within the limited hours that they are open and the long distances between stations in some areas.

Lesson: Voting Obstacles

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