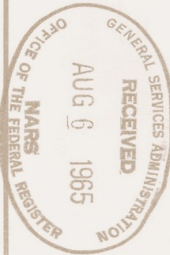


A Symposium on the 50th Anniversary of the Eighty-ninth Congress of the United States of America Voting Rights Act of 1965

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the fourth day of January,
one thousand nine hundred and sixty-five*



An Act

To enforce the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States,

Be it enacted by the Congress of the United States of America

That this Act shall

SEC. 2. No voting qualification, prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure with respect to voting shall be imposed by any State or political subdivision of any State or Territory of the United States or of the District of Columbia or by any officer or any agent of such State or Territory or any officer or any agent of such State or Territory on the basis of race or color.

SEC. 3. (a) Whenever in any State or Territory of the United States there is a proceeding to enforce the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the court shall determine whether the State or Territory has a history of past discrimination on the basis of race or color in voting matters. If the court determines that such a history exists, the court shall order if the court determines that the appointment of such examiners is necessary to enforce such guarantees or (2) as part of any final judgment if the court finds that violations of the fifteenth amendment justifying equitable relief have occurred in such State or Territory. (b) If the court determines that such a history exists, the court shall order if the court determines that the appointment of such examiners is necessary to enforce such guarantees or (2) as part of any final judgment if the court finds that violations of the fifteenth amendment justifying equitable relief have occurred in such State or Territory. (c) If in any proceeding instituted by the Attorney General under any statute to enforce the guarantees of the fifteenth amendment in any State or political subdivision the court finds that a test or device has been used for the purpose or with the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color, it shall suspend the use of tests and devices in such State or political subdivisions as the court shall determine is appropriate. (d) If in any proceeding instituted by the Attorney General under any statute to enforce the guarantees of the fifteenth amendment in any State or political subdivision the court finds that conditions of the fifteenth amendment justifying equitable relief have occurred within the territory of such State or political subdivision, the court, in addition to such relief as it may grant, shall retain jurisdiction for such period as it may deem appropriate and during such period no voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure with respect to voting different from that in force or effect at the time the proceeding was commenced shall be enforced unless and until the court finds that such qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure does not have the purpose and will not have the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color: *Provided*, That such qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure has not been submitted by the chief legal officer or other appropriate official of such State or subdivision to the Attorney General and the Attorney General has not objected thereto within the time specified in the order.



On November 14, 2015, Utica College's Center for Historical Research will host a day long symposium to examine the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Five historians will discuss this landmark legislation and the remarkable era from which it sprang, followed by a roundtable of local voting rights activists who will discuss present challenges to the Act.

Time: 8:30am-6:00pm

Location: ECJS Building on the Utica College campus

Please register by November 10, 2015

at

www.utica.edu/vra

Registration, which includes meals and a reception, is required.

Free for students, \$25 for all others.

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Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.