

Voting Rights Act of 1965

The Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006 extends for 25 years, several enforcement provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The provisions would have expired in 2007. The Voting Rights Act (VRA) is pointed to as the most effective civil rights legislation ever passed. It has enabled millions of African American, Latino, Asian American and Native American citizens who were previously denied access to the ballot an equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice. Some argue this has resulted in the election of over 14,500 Black and Latino officials who would not have won otherwise.

Section 5 does not apply to all localities. It requires some jurisdictions with a long history of voting discrimination to submit any voting changes to the Department of Justice or a federal court for approval in advance of implementation.

Is your community under Section 5 supervision?

If yes, what do your elected officials say about this?

Do you believe it is appropriate or inappropriate? Why?

Section 203, which provides for translated materials and translators where there are high concentrations of language minority voters with limited English proficiency.

Is the issue of limited English proficiency of voters relevant in your community?

Do you agree with this requirement or dispute it? Why?