Steps Toward Fairness

National laws and Alabama milestones since 1970

SS24.5.18 "Identify political achievements and legislation nationally and within Alabama that have furthered the modern civil rights movement since 1970."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the two national laws, circle the two Alabama actions, and number all four from earliest to latest to track different kinds of civil rights progress.

Changing Public Life

1. Imagine trying to sign up to vote but being unable to get to an office during work hours. In 1993, Congress passed the National Voter Registration Act. It required states to offer voter registration at motor vehicle offices and certain public assistance offices, and by mail. This national law gave more people ways to register, an important step toward taking part in elections.

2. Another national law widened access in a different way. Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990. It bans discrimination against people with disabilities in jobs and many public places. It also requires many public places to be accessible. For example, a ramp can help a person using a wheelchair enter a library. This law made it easier for people with disabilities to take part in community life.

3. Alabama has its own examples of political change. In 2019, Montgomery voters elected Steven Reed as the city's first Black mayor. That election marked a milestone for representation in a city once known for racial segregation. In 2022, Alabama voters approved a recompiled state constitution. The updated text removed racist language and sections that were no longer in force. Removing those words did not erase racism, but it changed Alabama's official document.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the 1993 national law help more people take part in elections?

2. Which national law advanced civil rights for people with disabilities? Explain one way it did so.

3. Identify a political achievement in Montgomery since 1970. Why was it a milestone?

4. What change to Alabama's constitution did voters approve in 2022, and why was it a civil rights step?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label about one national law and one Alabama action in the passage. Name both, explain what each changed, and compare how the law's requirements differ from the Alabama action.

ANSWER KEY

Steps Toward Fairness

GRADE 5 · SS24.5.18

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the two national laws, circle the two Alabama actions, and number all four from earliest to latest to track different kinds of civil rights progress. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the 1993 national law help more people take part in elections?	**It required states to offer voter registration at motor vehicle offices, certain public assistance offices, and by mail, giving people more ways to register.**
2	Which national law advanced civil rights for people with disabilities? Explain one way it did so.	**The Americans with Disabilities Act banned discrimination against people with disabilities in jobs and many public places.**
3	Identify a political achievement in Montgomery since 1970. Why was it a milestone?	**Voters elected Steven Reed as Montgomery's first Black mayor in 2019, a milestone for representation.**
4	What change to Alabama's constitution did voters approve in 2022, and why was it a civil rights step?	**Voters approved a recompiled constitution that removed racist language from the state's official document.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The 1993 National Voter Registration Act required states to offer voter registration at motor vehicle offices and by mail. This gave more people a way to sign up to vote. In 2022, Alabama voters approved a recompiled constitution that removed racist language. Unlike the national law, changing the constitution's wording did not add new ways to register, but it removed racist words from the state's official document.

Accept either national law paired with either Alabama action if the student accurately explains both and compares their effects. The 2022 recompilation removed racist language, but it did not erase racism.