Who Gets Heard?

Voting access, turnout, and party strategy

SS24.USG.7 "Analyze how the expansion of suffrage affected the political system of the United States, including the enfranchisement of non-property owners, women, Black Americans, and persons 18 to 20 years of age..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two changes that expanded voting rights, circle two barriers to voting, and number one sentence that links participation to party strategy.

When the Electorate Changes

1. In the early republic, many states limited voting to property-owning white men. During the 1800s, states removed most property requirements for white men, widening the electorate and pushing parties to seek votes beyond wealthy landowners. The Nineteenth Amendment barred voting discrimination based on sex in 1920, although many women of color still faced other restrictions. The Twenty-sixth Amendment lowered the voting age to 18 in 1971. Each expansion gave campaigns new voters to reach, but legal eligibility alone did not guarantee turnout.

2. After emancipation, Southern Black Codes restricted Black people's freedom; later Jim Crow laws used poll taxes, literacy tests, and intimidation to suppress Black voting. In 1965, peaceful marchers demanding voting rights faced violent attacks near Selma, Alabama. The Selma-to-Montgomery marches helped build public pressure for the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The law banned literacy tests and required certain jurisdictions with histories of discrimination to obtain federal approval before changing voting rules. As more Black citizens could register, parties had stronger incentives to court their votes.

3. Today, long travel distances, limited polling hours, and strict identification rules can make voting harder for some eligible citizens, especially those with less flexible work schedules. More early voting could reduce scheduling barriers and raise turnout, but added hours require funding and staff. When turnout changes among young voters or Black voters, candidates may adjust where they campaign and which concerns they emphasize. A party coalition is a group of voters whose support helps a party win; its makeup can shift when access and participation change.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did removing property requirements change whom parties needed to reach?

2. Why did the Nineteenth Amendment not guarantee that every woman could vote?

3. How did Jim Crow voting barriers and the Selma-to-Montgomery marches influence the Voting Rights Act of 1965?

4. How could more early voting affect turnout and party campaigns? Name one tradeoff.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A county is considering free bus rides to polling places. In four sentences, explain whose access might change, how turnout could affect a party's campaign or coalition, and one benefit and one cost or limitation of the plan.

Who Gets Heard?

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two changes that expanded voting rights, circle two barriers to voting, and number one sentence that links participation to party strategy. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did removing property requirements change whom parties needed to reach?	**It expanded the electorate beyond property owners, so parties needed to seek votes from white men who did not own property.**
2	Why did the Nineteenth Amendment not guarantee that every woman could vote?	**It barred discrimination based on sex, but many women of color still faced other voting restrictions.**
3	How did Jim Crow voting barriers and the Selma-to-Montgomery marches influence the Voting Rights Act of 1965?	**Jim Crow laws suppressed Black voting through measures such as literacy tests. The marches drew public attention and helped build pressure for a law that banned literacy tests and restricted changes to voting rules in certain jurisdictions.**
4	How could more early voting affect turnout and party campaigns? Name one tradeoff.	**It could help people with scheduling barriers vote, raising turnout. Parties might change where they campaign or which concerns they emphasize. Added voting hours require funding and staff.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Free buses could help eligible voters who live far from polling places, especially those without cars. If more of these voters cast ballots, campaigns might spend more time addressing their concerns. A benefit is that travel costs would be less of a barrier. Paying for buses would cost the county money, and bus service would not solve conflicts with work schedules.

Accept other supported links between expanded access, turnout, and campaign strategy. For the open task, the limitation may be a problem the bus plan cannot solve rather than a financial cost.