

Registration Rights Road

Trace how voting access changed and identify Virginia's registration rules.

CE.8.d "examining the history of and requirements for voter registration; and"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each historical change that made registration fairer. Circle each current Virginia eligibility requirement so you can compare past barriers with today's rules.

From Barriers to Registration

- ① For much of United States history, voting rules kept many people from the polls. After the Civil War, the Fifteenth Amendment barred states from denying a citizen's vote because of race or color. Yet some states used poll taxes and unfair tests to block Black citizens from registering. The Nineteenth Amendment, ratified in 1920, said voting rights could not be denied because of sex. Still, registration was not equally easy everywhere. Rules and local practices continued to create barriers.
- ② In 1964, the Twenty-fourth Amendment banned poll taxes in federal elections. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 attacked literacy tests and gave the federal government tools to protect voters, especially in places with long records of discrimination. Later, the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 required many government offices to offer registration forms. These changes did not automatically register every person. They removed barriers and made registration easier, while states continued to run elections and set lawful registration procedures today.
- ③ Today, Virginia requires a voter to be a United States citizen and a Virginia resident. A person must be 18 by the next general election. A person convicted of a felony cannot register unless the Governor has restored that person's voting rights. A court decision declaring a person mentally incompetent also removes voting rights until a court restores them. Eligible Virginians may register online, by mail, or in person. After the regular deadline, a person may use same-day registration and cast a provisional ballot.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the Fifteenth Amendment and the Nineteenth Amendment each expand voting rights?

2 Why did the passage say that major voting-rights changes did not automatically register every person?

3 List Virginia's five eligibility requirements or conditions for voter registration described in the passage.

4 Name two ways an eligible Virginian can register before the regular deadline. What can a person do after that deadline?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Jordan is a United States citizen and Virginia resident who turns 18 the day before the next general election. Jordan has no felony conviction or court decision about mental incompetence. Write three sentences that explain whether Jordan is eligible, give one regular registration option and the late-registration option, and name one historical change from the passage that supports fair voting access.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each historical change that made registration fairer. Circle each current Virginia eligibility requirement so you can compare past barriers with today's rules. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Fifteenth Amendment and the Nineteenth Amendment each expand voting rights?	The Fifteenth Amendment barred denying the vote because of race or color. The Nineteenth Amendment barred denying voting rights because of sex.
2	Why did the passage say that major voting-rights changes did not automatically register every person?	The changes removed barriers and made registration easier, but states still run elections and set lawful registration procedures.
3	List Virginia's five eligibility requirements or conditions for voter registration described in the passage.	A person must be a U.S. citizen, a Virginia resident, and 18 by the next general election. A person with a felony conviction needs the Governor to restore voting rights, and a person declared mentally incompetent needs a court to restore voting rights.
4	Name two ways an eligible Virginian can register before the regular deadline. What can a person do after that deadline?	Before the deadline, a person may register online, by mail, or in person. After the deadline, the person may use same-day registration and cast a provisional ballot.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jordan is eligible because Jordan will be 18 by the next general election and meets the citizenship and residency rules. Jordan could register online before the regular deadline, or use same-day registration and cast a provisional ballot after it. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 helped protect voters from discriminatory barriers, which supports fair voting access.

Accept equivalent wording for eligibility conditions, registration methods, and historical changes. For the open response, require an accurate eligibility judgment, both a regular and late registration option, and a relevant historical connection.