July 4, 1776
Declaration of Independence (proclaimed for all 13 colonies; government in which the people vote every year)

1788 U.S. Constitution becomes effective on the date the necessary number of states ratify it

1852 Preston Brooks, South Carolina Senator, attacks Robert C. Schenck, a northern abolitionist, with a cane

1864 The first draft registration law is enacted

1868 The U.S. Census Act is passed

1870 Reconstruction Act is passed

1876 Rutherford B. Hayes wins the election after the so-called "Bloodless War"

1896 The Supreme Court invalidates the Grand Army of the Republic’s voting qualifications in United States v. Slaughter-House

1898 First ballot to cast is by a woman

1920 Women gain the right to vote with the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

1957 First African American is sworn into the Senate, filling a vacancy caused by the resignation of Hubert Humphrey

1964 Voting Rights Act signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson

1965 Voting Rights Act is renewed

1970 National Women’s History Project begins to highlight the achievements of women

1971 Voting Rights Act is extended to cover voting practices

1982 Military and Overseas Citizens Voting Rights Act (MOCA) is passed

1992 All adults are granted the right to vote regardless of whether they pay income tax

1993 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) is signed into law

2002 “Motor Voter” signed into law

2006 First-ever federal voter registration deadline

2009 Voting Rights Act is reauthorized

2012 Voting Rights Act is reauthorized

2013 Voting Rights Act is reauthorized

2018 Voting Rights Act is reauthorized

2020 Voting Rights Act is reauthorized

2023 Voting Rights Act is reauthorized