

## “Voting Rights Act”



President Lyndon B. Johnson signing the “Voting Rights Act” on August 6, 1965

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. watched as President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the “Voting Rights Act” on August 6, 1965, giving black Americans the right to vote.

The bill banned restrictions on African-Americans that were designed to deny blacks their right to vote in federal, state and local elections. Many blacks who tried to vote faced terrorist attacks and suffered severe injuries or death in the southern states.

Other black voters would be told by election officials that they had arrived on the wrong day, at the wrong time, or the wrong place, or they possessed insufficient literacy skills and filled out the application incorrectly.

Decades after the signing of the Act, controversy still surrounds voting rights as more and more states are imposing voter identification laws which have been called an act of minority voter suppression.

For more information on “Voting Rights Act,” please visit:

[http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/vot/intro/intro\\_b.php](http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/vot/intro/intro_b.php)