



HONOR THE PAST.  
CELEBRATE THE PRESENT.  
CHALLENGE THE FUTURE.

HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR US TO RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE OUR HEROES AND SHE-ROES!  
- MAYA ANGELOU



**DOROTHY COTTON**

The only woman in Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s inner circle, Cotton was the highest-ranking woman in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and leader of the Citizen Education Program.



**IDA B. WELLS**

A journalist, abolitionist, and feminist who led an anti-lynching crusade in the 1890s and continued to work for justice throughout her life.



**LYNDA LOWERY**

The youngest person to march with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, Lowery was jailed nine times before the age of fifteen for her civil rights activism.



**AMELIA BOYNTON ROBINSON**

A civil rights pioneer who championed voting rights for African-Americans. She was brutally beaten for helping to lead a 1963 civil rights march, which became known as "Bloody Sunday."



**UNITA BLACKWELL**

The first African-American woman to be elected mayor in the state of Mississippi, Blackwell was a project director for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and helped organize voter drives across Mississippi.



**CLAUDETTE COLVIN**

A pioneer in the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama during the 1950s. She refused to give up her seat on a bus months before Rosa Parks' more famous protest.



**DIANE NASH**

An activist who worked to integrate lunch counters through sit-ins. A member of the Freedom Riders, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.



**HERBERT LEE**

Fought for black voting rights in Mississippi. Lee was murdered by a Mississippi state representative, E. H. Hurst while delivering cotton near Liberty.



**SAMUEL L. YOUNG JR.**

A civil rights and voting rights activist who was murdered for trying to desegregate a "whites only" restroom.



**VIOLA LIUZZO**

Traveled to Alabama in March 1965 to help organize African-American voters in Selma, and was one of the primary local organizers of the Selma to Montgomery march in 1965. She was murdered by members of the Ku Klux Klan.



**MARIE FOSTER**

Registered many African-American voters in Selma, and was one of the primary local organizers of the Selma to Montgomery march in 1965.



**JIMMIE LEE JACKSON**

Joined the Civil Rights Movement as a young man. A peaceful march he was shot and killed by an Alabama state trooper in 1965. His murder inspired a civil rights demonstration that led to the Voting Rights Act.

POSTER #1

Voting Vanguard brings to light the names of the hundreds who worked at great personal peril to obtain and maintain the right to vote and have their vote count. We celebrate voting as the centerpiece of creating and maintaining a healthy democracy.

**VOTING VANGUARDS**



WWW.REJOICETHEVOTE.ORG

LIFTING AS WE CLIMB, ONWARD AND UPWARD WE GO, STRUGGLING AND STRIVING AND HOPING THAT THE BUDS AND BLOSSOMS OF OUR DESIRES WILL BURST INTO GLORIOUS FRUITION ERE LONG.  
- MARY CHURCH TERRELL



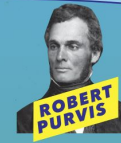
**MARY CHURCH TERRELL**

Fought to secure the rights of women to vote, but was frustrated by the exclusion of African-American women by white suffragists. She worked to change that and co-founded the National Association of Colored Women in 1896.



**LUCY STONE**

A prominent orator, abolitionist, and suffragist at a time when women were discouraged and prevented from public speaking. In 1847, Stone became the first woman from Massachusetts to earn a college degree.



**ROBERT PURVIS**

In 1833, Purvis helped establish the American Anti-Slavery Society. He lectured widely and organized resistance to efforts aimed at restricting free blacks' civil rights. He served as the first vice president of the Woman's Suffrage Society.



**ANNA JULIA COOPER**

An author, educator, sociologist, speaker, Black Liberation activist, and one of the most prominent African-American scholars in U.S. history. Born into slavery in North Carolina in 1838, she fought for women's rights, and the right to vote and lived long enough to see the rising Civil Rights Movement.



**MARY ANN SHADD CAREY**

Grew up in a home that sheltered fugitive slaves. She was the first American black woman to edit and publish a newspaper, and one of the first black female lawyers in the U.S. Advocated for granting women the right to vote.



**MARIA W. STEWART**

A free-born teacher, journalist, lecturer, abolitionist, and women's rights activist. She is the earliest known African woman to lecture in public on political issues and the first African woman to speak to a mixed audience of men and women, black and white.



**FRANCES ELLEN WATKINS HARPER**

A founding member of the American Woman Suffrage Association, Harper famously exposed racial inequities at an 1866 suffrage convention: "You white women speak here of rights, I speak of wrongs."



**JULIA WARD HOWE**

An American poet and author, known for writing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." She was an abolitionist and fought for the women's right to vote, co-founding the New England Suffrage Association and the Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Association.



**JOSEPHINE ST. PIERRE**

A New Englander who was a suffragist and abolitionist and recruited African-American soldiers to fight for the North in the Civil War. She criticized "white national women's clubs and promoted the African-American clubwomen's movement.



**SARAH REMOND**

In 1832 she co-founded the first female antislavery group in Salem, MA. In 1859, while on an antislavery speaking tour in England, she reported, "I have been received here as a sister by white women for the first time in my life." Transnational connections became a concrete way for her to escape racism in the U.S.



**ANGELINA GRIMKÉ WELD**

Raised on a slave-owning plantation in South Carolina, she grew up to become an ardent abolitionist writer and speaker, as well as a women's rights activist. She and her sister were among the first women to speak in public against slavery, defying gender norms and risking violence.



**ALICE STONE BLACKWELL**

(Lucy Stone's Daughter) After graduating from Boston University, she began working for the Woman's Journal and later became editor. In 1890, she helped reconcile the two national women's suffrage associations that had been split over the issue of black civil rights.

POSTER #3 SUFFRAGISTS

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**VOTING VANGUARDS**



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**"THE VOTE IS PRECIOUS. IT IS ALMOST SACRED. IT IS THE MOST POWERFUL NON-VIOLENT TOOL WE HAVE IN A DEMOCRACY."**  
 - REPRESENTATIVE JOHN R. LEWIS, JULY 3, 2018



**CHRISTINE NEUMANN-ORTIZ**

Founding Executive Director of Voces de la Frontera, which puts great energy into encouraging and educating the community about the importance of making their vote count and has grown into a state and national leader in the immigrant rights movement.



**PHILOMELA WANKENGE**

Founder of Freedom Fighters DC, which is focused on liberating Black lives and creating change on a local level that can lead to national impact. The group started on social media and organized several large marches in the summer of 2020.



**RAHHEL HAILE**

Co-founder of MNYC, an organization that centers leadership development of the new generation of movement leaders, leveraging electoral work and issue advocacy as tactics to create a more equitable and just state for all people.



**MAYA MWANGI**

Part of a team at New Era Colorado, which ran a large scale voter registration program reaching high school students, particularly students of color, across the state, and entering them on the state's 2020 law which lowered the voting age to 17.



**CHARLIE BONNER**

Empowers youth to see their voice in shaping their future. MOVE Texas, the brainchild behind Charlie's drive to combat voter suppression, has helped young voters across 22 campuses in Texas.



**RAVEN DOUGLAS**

Once a youth organizer, Douglas is now the Deputy Director of MOVE TEXAS, where she aims to change the fact that Texas is one of the most difficult states to register to vote.



**DAKOTA HALL**

Founding Director of Leaders Registering Transformation (LIT) and has worked at Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAH), and Youth Empowered in the Struggle (YES!).



**KELLY CHOI**

Executive Board member for March for Our Lives. She helped create a non-profit against gun violence in Texas and works on civic engagement and voter registration.



**ANDREA CRISTINA MERCADO**

Executive Director of New Florida Majority, a racial justice organization building independent political power for marginalized communities. The daughter of immigrants from South America, Andrea has been organizing in communities of color and immigrant communities for over a decade.



**LATOSHIA BROWN**

Co-founder of Black Voters Matter, which has been very influential in winning elections in the South by registering voters and boosting turnout. "I don't believe voting is the end-all-be-all. The goal is never participation. The goal is power."



**BRIANNA CEA**

Founder of Generation Vote, where she mobilizes and connects young people to become agents of change in local electoral and advocacy campaigns. Co-Chair of the Let-NY Vote Youth Voting Rights Working Group, responsible for passing the first NY voter reform laws in over 100 years.



**YANILIZ ROSARIO**

Organizer with Leaders Registering Transformation, a Wisconsin group led by youth of color that opens beyond just registering young people to vote, to also engaging them to become involved in every aspect of democracy. Their efforts persuaded the Milwaukee school board to end its contract with the Police Department in June 2020.



John R. Lewis (1940-2020) believed in young people stepping up, taking action, making noise, and fighting for what's right. The heroes above exemplify his legacy.



WWW.REJOICETHEVOTE.ORG

**"YOUR VOICES ARE BEING HEARD AND YOU'RE PROVING TO OUR ANCESTORS THAT THEIR STRUGGLES WERE NOT IN VAIN. NOW WE HAVE ONE MORE THING WE NEED TO DO TO WALK IN OUR TRUE POWER, AND THAT IS TO VOTE."**  
 - BEYONCÉ

**Young people have led the way in the fight for voting rights in the past and today!**

**RejoiceTheVote.org/vote**

**VOTE!**

**Should the voting age be lowered in New York state?**

**In NY State, if you're 16 or 17, you can pre-register to vote, and automatically be registered to vote when you turn 18!**



**ROSANELL EATON**

At age 21 she was one of the first Black Americans to vote in her county and went on to register thousands of voters. At age 92 she was the lead plaintiff in challenging the North Carolina Restrictive Voting law.

Helped run a large scale voter registration program reaching high school students, particularly students of color, across the state of Colorado, educating them on the state's 2020 law which lowered the voting age to 17.



**LYNDA LOWERY**

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**Help Ithaca reach its goal of becoming the "Votingest (smaller) City" in New York State! We had 75% participation by eligible voters in 2020, and we are striving to reach 80% or more in 2022!**



PARTNERS



**"WE HAVE GOVERNMENT 'BY THE PEOPLE' ONLY IF WE MAKE IT SO."**  
- DOROTHY COTTON



(On the left) Rep. John R. Lewis, (second from right) Jeff Furman, founder of Rejoice the Vote!

**RejoiceTheVote.org/vote**

**VOTE!**

Register to vote.

Know your polling place.

Become a poll worker.

Provide rides or childcare on election day.



**Local Legend**  
**DOROTHY COTTON**  
1930-2018

Dorothy Cotton was one of Dr. King's closest colleagues. Her position in his inner circle put her at the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement as an educator, planner, activist and leader.

Her most important work was the development and leadership of the Citizenship Education Program, training disenfranchised people in the importance of civic and political participation and the organizing methods for voter registration and non-violent protest. This program was one of the most effective but least well-known components of the movement.

Source: Dorothy Cotton Institute

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PARTNERS



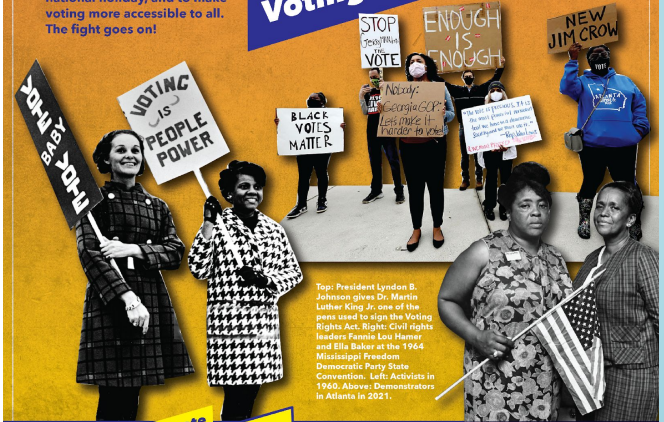
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The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is a landmark piece of federal legislation that prohibits racial discrimination in voting. It was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson during the height of the civil rights movement. Congress amended the Act five times to expand its protections.

While the Voting Rights Act has been challenged by recent Supreme Court decisions, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act have been introduced to restore rights, make Election Day a national holiday, and to make voting more accessible to all. The fight goes on!

**Happy Birthday Voting Rights Act!**  
**AUGUST 6, 1965**



Top: President Lyndon B. Johnson gives Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. one of the pens used to sign the Voting Rights Act. Right: Civil rights leaders Fannie Lou Hamer and Ella Baker at the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party State Convention. Left: Activists in 1960. Above: Demonstrators in Atlanta in 2021.

**RejoiceTheVote.org/vote**

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PARTNERS



**Phillip Agnew**

**Cal Walker**

**Ana Goldsmith**

**Lola Ibrahim**

**Innosanto Nagara**

**Jonathan Butler**

**Maryam Adib**

**MEET OUR JURY!**

[WWW.REJOICETHEVOTE.ORG/ARTCONTEST](http://WWW.REJOICETHEVOTE.ORG/ARTCONTEST)

# REJOICE THE VOTE! ART CONTEST

"YOUR VOTE MATTERS. IF IT DIDN'T, WHY WOULD SOME PEOPLE KEEP TRYING TO TAKE IT AWAY?"  
- REPRESENTATIVE JOHN R. LEWIS, JULY 3, 2018

**YOUR VOTE! YOUR VOICE!**

**END VOTER SUPPRESSION!**

**GET INTO SOME "GOOD TROUBLE"**

**LOWER THE VOTING AGE TO SIXTEEN!**

**DEADLINE OCT 1**  
\*SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**HONORING JOHN R. LEWIS (1940-2020)**

**CREATE A PIECE OF ART CELEBRATING YOUTH ACTIVISM FOR VOTING RIGHTS AND INSPIRING PEOPLE TO VOTE.**

**5 AWARD CATEGORIES** K-3RD GRADE, 4TH & 5TH GRADE, MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL, OVER 18

**MULTIPLE CASH PRIZES FOR WINNERS AND HONORABLE MENTIONS - WIN UP TO \$1,000!**  
JURY-SELECTED WINNING ARTWORKS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AS POSTERS AND ONLINE.

**REJOICE THE VOTE!**

MORE INFO AT [WWW.REJOICETHEVOTE.ORG](http://WWW.REJOICETHEVOTE.ORG)

# VOTE 4 THOSE WHO CAN'T



"I think art is a great way to express emotion and also tell a message. For my design, I decided to put some real life events to persuade viewers to vote for this year's election. I drew on the bottom left a son and his father next to the border with a border police agent. In the right, I have BLM protesters fighting for peace and justice. On top, I have the California wildfires that have started due to climate change. All these scenarios represents reasons why to vote, especially voting for those who aren't allowed or have the freedom to."

- YI NAN, AGE 16, SAN FRANCISCO, CA



WWW.REJOICETHEVOTE.ORG

# REJOICE THE VOTE



"I wanted to show how much effort and collective action went into our right to vote. We must use the voice that past heroes worked so hard to amplify."

- ZORIANA, AGE 19, ARTIST



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RejoiceTheVote.org/vote

# VOTE!

#### PARTNERS





**CITY AWARDED FOR HIGH VOTER TURNOUT**  
ALBANY

The 2020 Votingest City winners were Albany, NY for larger cities and Saratoga Springs for smaller cities. The trophy (left) includes voting rights heroes Dr. Martin Luther King, John R. Lewis, Mary Church Terrell, Shirley Chisholm, Ella Baker, Fannie Lou Hamer and Bob Moses.

**Register to vote.**

**place.**

**"DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT."**  
- MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN, FOUNDER, CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND

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**Know your polling place.**

**Become a poll worker.**

**Provide rides or childcare on election day.**

Ithaca, NY had 75% participation by eligible voters in 2020, and we are striving to reach 80% or more in 2022!

**The Votingest City**

**RejoiceTheVote.org/vote**

**VOTE!**

**PARTNERS**



**Will Tompkins  
County be  
The Votingest  
County in 2024?**



# Young people are leading the way around the country!

Mississippi Votes  
Alliance for Youth Organizing  
Minnesota Youth Collective  
Southwest Georgia Project for  
Community Education  
Alliance for Youth Organizing  
Voces de La Frontera  
Youth Rise Texas  
Chicago Votes Education Fund  
GenVote  
Andrew Goodman Foundation  
CIRCLE

YVOTE  
Alliance of Families for Justice  
Loud Light  
Minnesota Youth Collective  
Detroit Action Education Fund  
Kentucky Student Voice Team  
PA Youth Vote  
Rural Youth Catalyst Project  
Georgia Youth Justice Coalition  
Engage Miami  
Mississippi Votes

**Voting is one way we can participate in a civic society and one part of democracy. Democracy is also one way we can be truly human and responsible to each other. It is in that sense Rejoice the Vote is celebratory and dedicated to understanding our past while working for a more just, kind, inclusive society.**

**THANKS FOR LISTENING!**