

Unit 5 POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

5.1 Voting Rights and Models of Voting Behavior



ESSENTIALS

Legal protections found in federal legislation and the 15th, 17th, 19th, 24th, and 26th Amendments relate to the expansion of opportunities for political participation.

Examples of political models explaining voting behavior include:  
(1) Rational choice—Voting based on what is perceived to be in the citizen's individual interest; (2) Retrospective voting—Voting to decide whether the party or candidate in power should be re-elected based on the recent past; (3) Prospective voting—Voting based on predictions of how a party or candidate will perform in the future; (4) Party-line voting—Supporting a party by voting for candidates from one political party for all public offices at the same level of government

- 1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon? [Write your response like a claim statement]
- 2. Thomas Paine wrote, "The harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph." How might this quote inspire us to vote?

Describe different models of voting behavior.

- Examples of political models explaining voting behavior include:
- Rational choice—Voting based on what is perceived to be in the citizen's individual interest
  - Retrospective voting—Voting to decide whether the party or candidate in power should be re-elected based on the recent past
  - Prospective voting—Voting based on predictions of how a party or candidate will perform in the future
  - Party-line voting—Supporting a party by voting for candidates from one political party for all public offices at the same level of government

	Find an authoritative political scientist who has studied this. Cite book/quote	Apply this model to a recent election and discover data about outcomes
Rational choice Define		
Retrospective voting Define		
Prospective voting Define		
Party-line voting Define		

What model of voting behavior appears to be most salient, most popular, today?  
Write a claim statement. Claim statement here should use critical data.

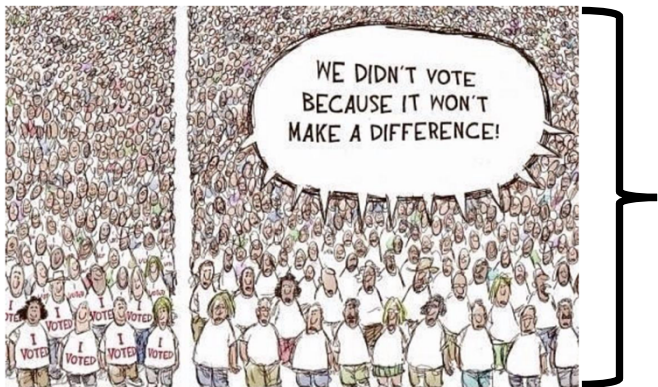
**Describe the voting rights protections in the Constitution and in legislation.**

*Legal protections found in federal legislation and the 15th, 17th, 19th, 24th, and 26th Amendments relate to the expansion of opportunities for political participation*

	Briefly describe the context in which this provision was passed.	Turnout rates of affected group today Find data over time
15 <sup>th</sup> Amendment Define		
17 <sup>th</sup> Amendment Define		
19 <sup>th</sup> Amendment Define		
24 <sup>th</sup> Amendment Define		
26 <sup>th</sup> Amendment Define		
Voting Rights Act of 1965 Define		

**What additional voting rights protections would you like to see added to our democratic process?**

**Some scholars have discussed bringing back a literacy test to make one eligible to vote. Write a claim statement for and against.** [Remember claim must include a substantive argument]



What is the funny of this cartoon?  
Do you agree?

**ARGUMENTATIVE RESPONSE:**

In our modern democracy, voting is the least efficacious form of political participation. If you really want to change our government, don't vote.