

Make Your Vote Count Getting Ready for the 2012 Elections

Presented By:

Darlene M. Jenkins, Director of Research

Dan Rabbit, Health Policy Organizer

Joseph Benson, Co-Chair NCAB

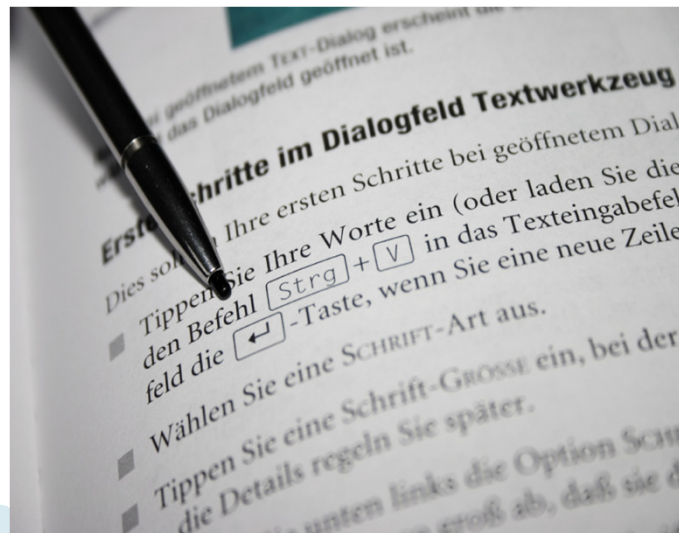
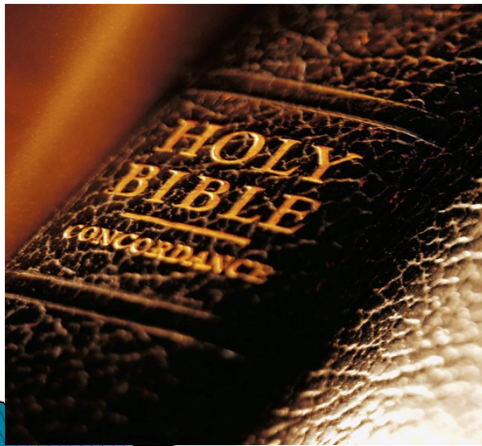


Health Care & Housing Are Human Rights

NATIONAL
HEALTH CARE
for the
HOMELESS
COUNCIL

History of Voting

- White Men were able to vote by the time of the Civil War.
- Women, People of Color and Native Americans were not able to vote.
- Literacy, poll taxes and religious tests were used.



Poll Tax Receipt

No. **S38** Birmingham, Ala. *4/9* 189*6*

Received of *J. M. Kirklin* (Col.) (White.)

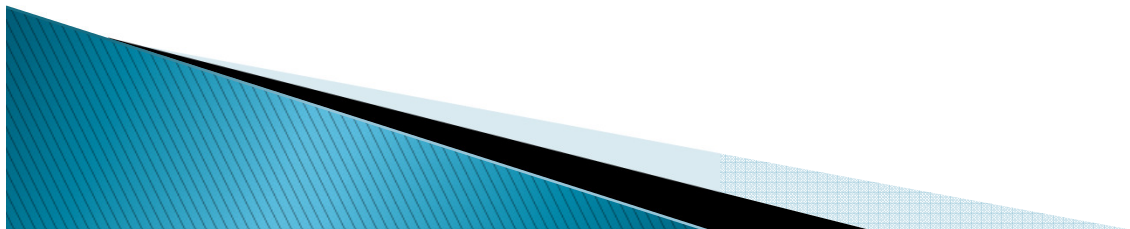
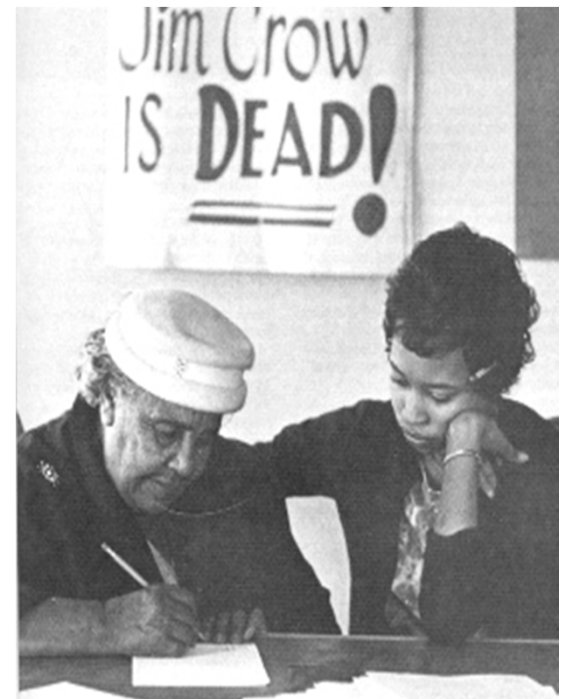
the sum of *Two 25/100* Dollars
in full of amount of Poll Tax for the year 1895.

Poll Tax,		<i>1</i>	<i>50</i>
Assessor's Fee,			<i>50</i>
Collector's Fee,			<i>50</i>
			<hr/>

A. M. ... P. T. C.

Literacy Tests

- ▶ Typically had several parts
- ▶ Read out loud the Constitution
- ▶ Interpret the Constitution
- ▶ Answer 4 questions
- ▶ Citizenship Schools were instituted



The State of Louisiana

Literacy Test (This test is to be given to anyone who cannot prove a fifth grade education.)

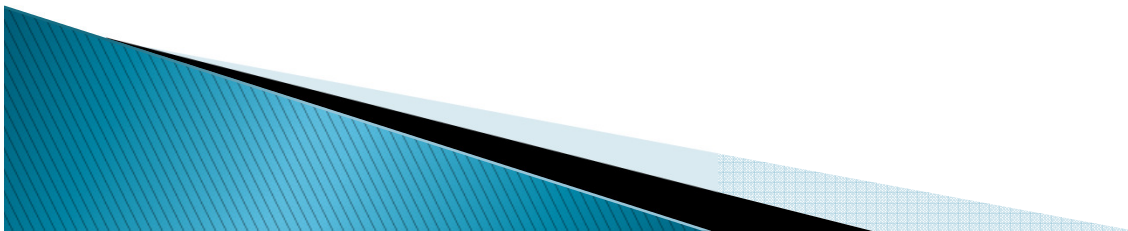
Do what you are told to do in each statement, nothing more, nothing less. Be careful as one wrong answer denotes failure of the test. You have 10 minutes to complete the test.

- 1. Draw a line around the number or letter of this sentence.**
- 2. Draw a line under the last word in this line.**
- 3. Cross out the longest word in this line.**
- 4. Draw a line around the shortest word in this line.**
- 5. Circle the first, first letter of the alphabet in this line.**
- 6. In the space below draw three circles, one inside (engulfed by) the other.**
- 7. Above the letter X make a small cross.**
- 8. Draw a line through the letter below that comes earliest in the alphabet.**

Z V S B D M K I T P H C

Example Question

- ▶ “Spell backwards, forwards”

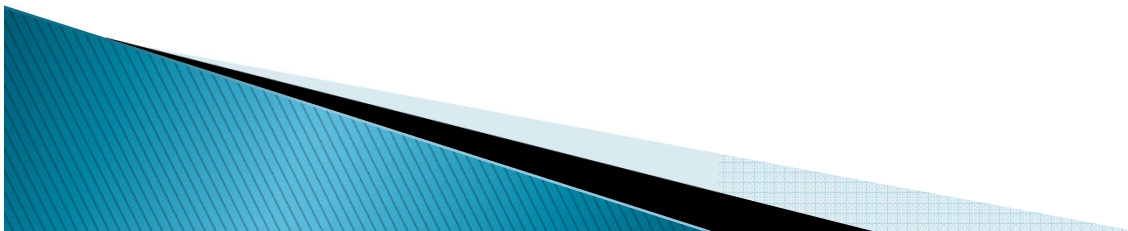


Getting the Right to Vote



Getting the Right to Vote

- ▶ Women – 1920
- ▶ Native Americans–1924
- ▶ Asian Americans–1965
- ▶ African Americans – 1964
- ▶ Mexican Americans – 1975



Voting Rights Act

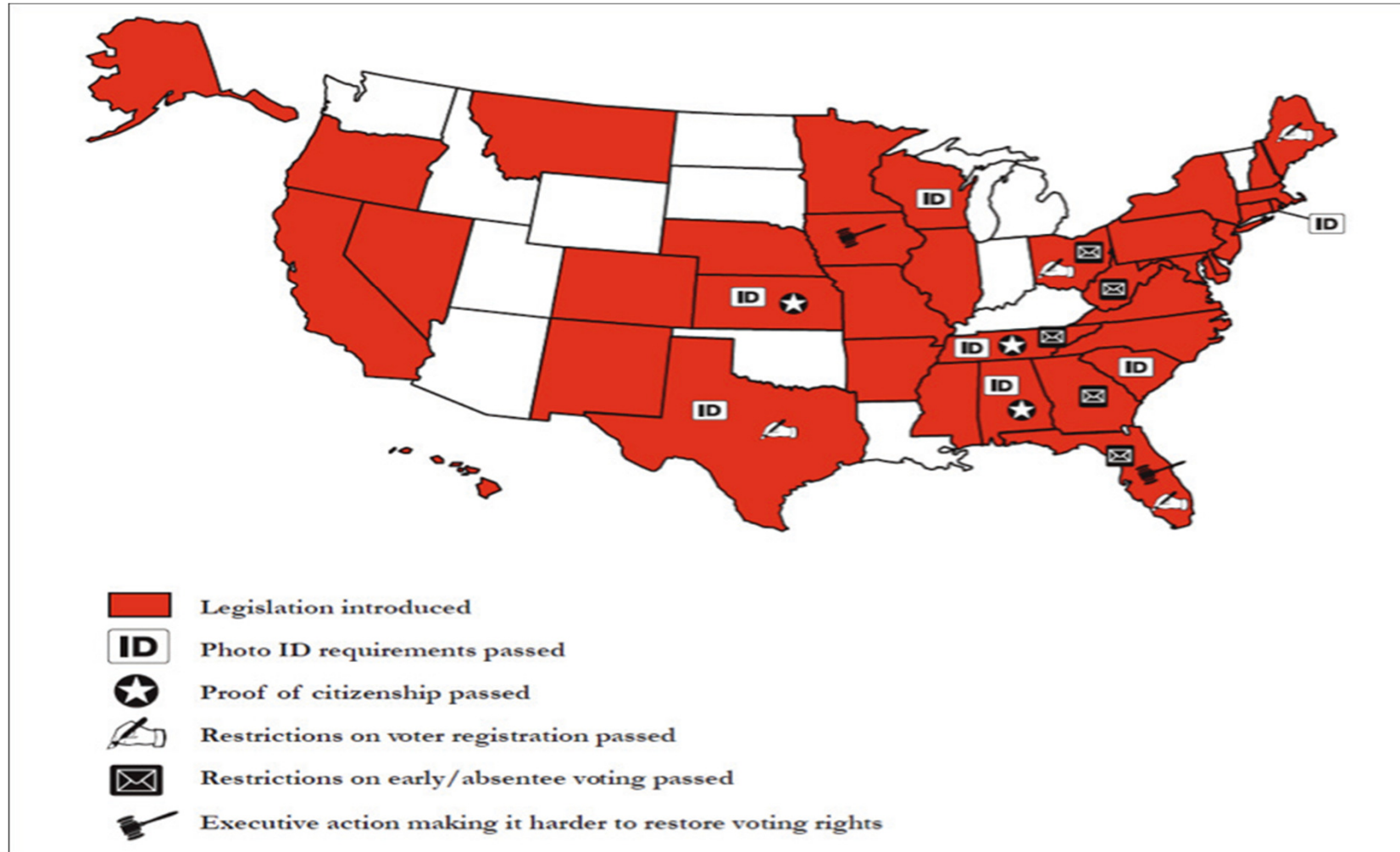


Lyndon B. Johnson

- ▶ *"Many of the issues of civil rights are very complex and most difficult. But about this there can and should be no argument. Every American citizen must have an equal right to vote. There is no reason which can excuse the denial of that right. There is no duty which weighs more heavily on us than the duty we have to ensure that right."*

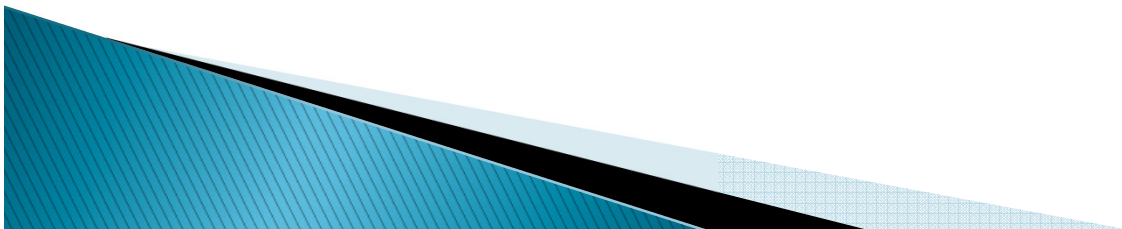
Civil Rights Act 1964

States that have made changes



Turning Back the Clock?

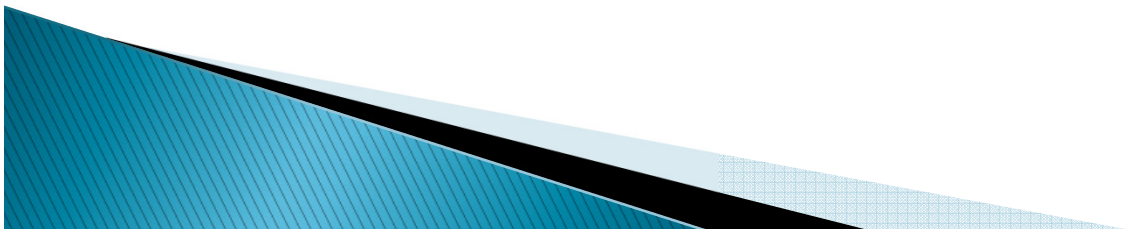
- Increase in African American, Latino and Asian eligible voters
- Also, in 2010, more than 19 million Latinos became eligible to vote, more than in any other election year. More than 9 percent of eligible voters nationwide are Latino, up from 8.6 percent in 2006.



Changes in Voting Rights

▶ Five areas targeted:

- Photo ID laws.
- Proof of citizenship laws.
- Making voter registration harder
- Reducing early and absentee days
- Making it harder to restore voting rights.



Voting -age Americans Who Lack Valid, Government-Issued Photo IDs

25% of African Americans

20% of Asian Americans

19% Latino Americans

18% American citizens between 18-24 lack photo ID with current name and address

15% of American citizens earning less than \$35,000 per year

Current Poll

Voter Registration, Certainty to Vote, and Vote Preference by Age Group

Registered voters

	Registered to vote*	Definitely WILL vote (among registered voters)	Obama margin over Romney	Vote for Barack Obama	Vote for Mitt Romney
	%	%	Pct. pts.	%	%
18 to 29	60	56	35	64	29
30 to 49	75	80	5	49	44
50 to 64	85	81	4	48	44
65+	92	86	-12	40	52
Total	77	77	6	49	43

April 20-24, 2012

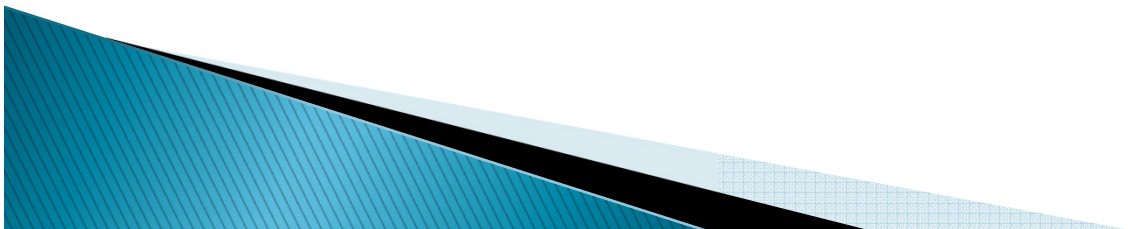
*Based on national adults

GALLUP®



Why is Election Day Registration Being Targeted?

- Voter turnout rates are typically 10 – 12 percent
- EDR allows voters who may have been mistakenly purged from voting rolls to still vote.
- EDR assists young voters and college students
- Voter turnout in 2010 was ten points higher in the states with Election Day Registration.



Restoring Voting Rights

- ▶ Over five million Americans are denied the right to vote because of prior felony convictions—the United States is the only democracy in the world that takes the right to vote away from citizens who have completed their sentences. This causes over two million U.S. citizens to be “permanently” disenfranchised from the voting process.

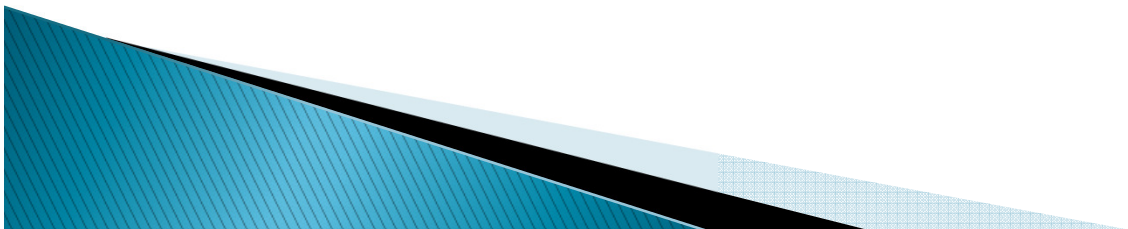
Source: Brennan Report, 2012



Why Focus on Voting Rights?

Remember

- ▶ Attacking voting rights was un-American then.
- ▶ Attacking voting rights is un-American now.
- ▶ We rose to the challenge then.
- ▶ We must meet the challenge now.
- ▶ It's time for each of us to remind America that This is My Vote, and that we will work together to defend and protect our constitutional right.

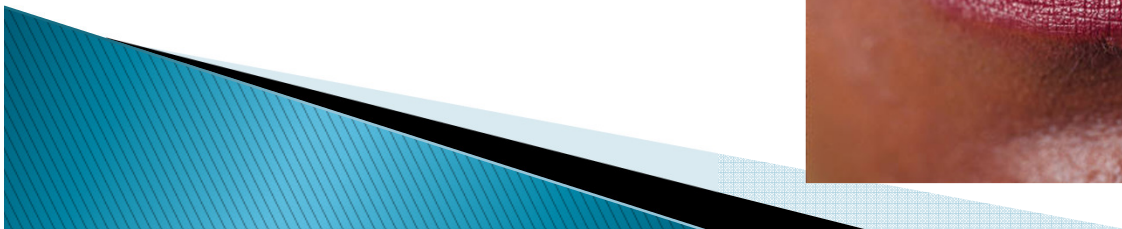


WHY VOTE?

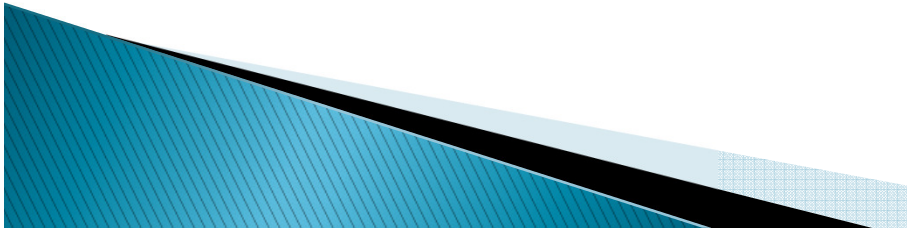
✓ Vote



- Shut Up, And do whatever we say!



Marching for the Right to Vote!



The Right to Vote

- ▶ No American who is qualified to vote should ever be denied the right and opportunity to do so. That seems so simple. So basic. How can "government by the people" work if certain groups of "the people" are not allowed to vote?

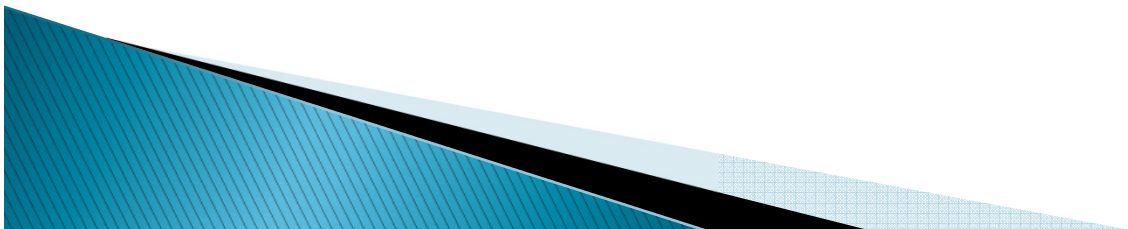


Source: Robert Longley

People Died to Vote!

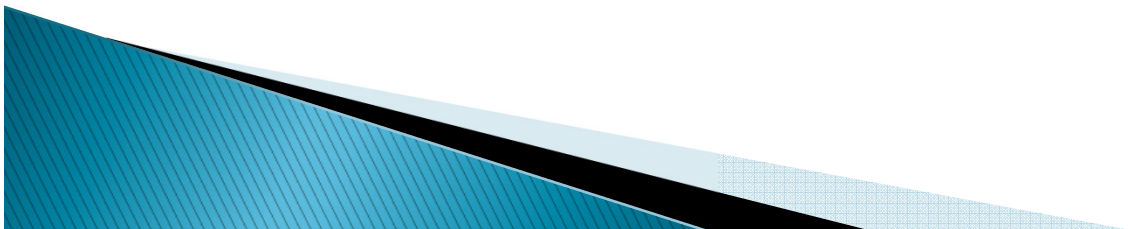
My Vote, My Voice

- *"So long as I do not firmly and irrevocably possess the right to vote I do not possess myself. I cannot make up my mind – it is made up for me. I cannot live as a democratic citizen, observing the laws I have helped to enact – I can only submit to the edict of others."*
- Dr. Martin Luther King, 1957



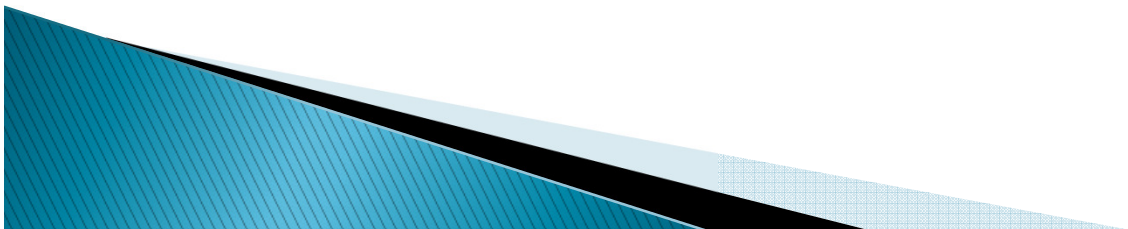
What Should Drive All of Us!

- ▶ Everyone who wants to be registered is registered
- ▶ Everyone who wants to vote can vote
- ▶ Every vote that is cast is a vote that is counted.



Get Involved

- ▶ Create Coalitions in your Community
- ▶ Prepare to identify impacted voters
- ▶ Facilitate transportation for voters
- ▶ Identify sources of internet access
- ▶ Seek out potential sources to offset costs
- ▶ Follow up with voters



Time is Running Out!

- ▶ Wake-up!
- ▶ Calling all voting rights advocates: get moving to ensure everyone can vote.



WHY VOTE?

- ▶ It is YOUR VOICE– and the only person who can silence your voice is YOU!



LET
✓
PEOPLE
VOTE

The logo features the word "LET" in large blue letters at the top. Below it is a central graphic consisting of a blue circle with a white checkmark, flanked by two sets of three horizontal red lines. Underneath this graphic is the word "PEOPLE" in blue letters, and at the bottom is the word "VOTE" in red letters. The entire logo is centered on a light blue background.