

When Will Real Change Come?

- Not until African Americans in the South are able to fully realize the guarantees of the 15th Amendment to the Constitution (the right to vote) will meaningful change arrive in the South.
- By 1964 in many counties of the South 100% of the white residents were registered to vote while 0% of African Americans were registered to vote.

Why – How?

These circumstances did not occur by accident.

- A complex system had been put in place devoted to denying African Americans the right to vote.
- That system included some if not all of the following:
 - Literacy Tests
 - Grandfather Clause
 - Poll Taxes
 - Terror and Intimidation
 - White Primaries

Literacy Tests

- The Primary obstacle came in the form of registration
- Interlocking system of racial discrimination and oppression
- System included the Registrars, Police, White Citizen's Councils
- Registration procedures were supposed to be uniform throughout the state, but in reality varied from Registrar to Registrar and from day to day.

Steps to Registration

- A four page oath – designed to intimidate and threaten. Info was often passed to the KKK
- Voucher System – Someone needed to vouch that your info was accurate. Difficult.
- Names of applicants printed in the newspaper
- The Test itself had three components
 - Part A - Constitutional interpretation
 - Part B – 4 questions based on part A
 - Part C – Four general knowledge questions.
 - A board of registrars would determine who passed and who failed.