

## Voting Rights in the Post-Reconstruction South

### **Grandfather Clause: If your grandfather was not eligible to vote, you are not eligible to vote**

Under this clause, who would not be eligible?

### **Literacy tests: required all people to pass a literacy test before they could register to vote**

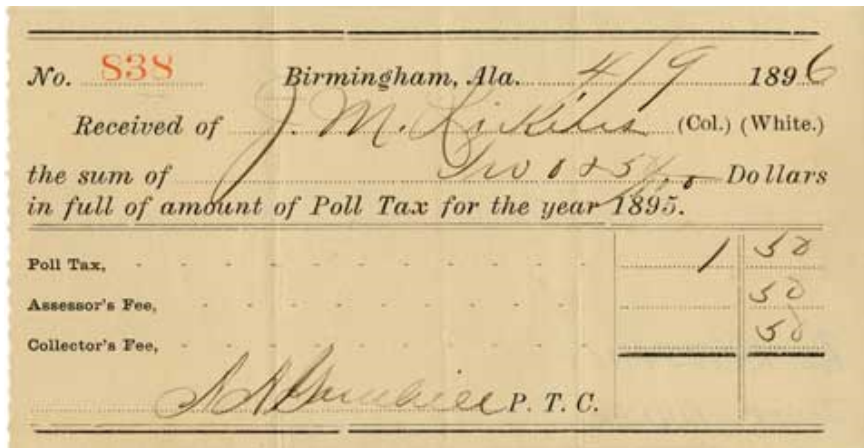
For instance, in a typical Alabama literacy test, Part "A" required you to read out loud to the registrar's satisfaction a section of the Constitution (and in some cases verbally interpret it to his satisfaction). You then had to write out a section.

After that, you were given Parts "B" and "C" which were two sets of four written questions that you had to answer. A sampling of those questions is below:

1. A person appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court is appointed for a \_\_\_\_\_ term.
2. When the Constitution was originally approved, how many states had to ratify it in order for it to be in effect? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Prior to the adoption of the United States Constitution, the organization of states was known as \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Which of the following is a right guaranteed by the Bill of Rights: public education, employment, trial by jury or voting? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What officer is designated by the Constitution to be president of the Senate of the United States? \_\_\_\_\_
6. To serve as President of the United States, a person must be how old: 35, 40 or 45 years of age? \_\_\_\_\_
7. The first sentence of the United States Constitution is called the Preamble. True or False? \_\_\_\_\_
8. If no candidate for President receives a majority of the electoral vote, who decides who will become President? \_\_\_\_\_
9. The president is forbidden to exercise his or her authority of pardon in cases of \_\_\_\_\_.
10. If the president does not wish to sign a bill, how many days is he or she allowed in which to return it to Congress for reconsideration? \_\_\_ days
11. At what time of day on January 2<sup>nd</sup> each four years does the term of the president of the United States end? \_\_\_\_\_
12. The power to declare war is vested in \_\_\_\_\_.

How do literacy tests such as the one mentioned above, disqualify many if not all blacks from voting?

**Poll tax: required voters to pay a tax in order to vote**



How did poll taxes prevent many blacks (and some poor whites) from voting?

**8-box system: complicated system which required voters to put each ballot in the correct box. If the vote was placed in the wrong box, it was thrown out.)**

How did this serve to disenfranchise (disqualify) a significant number of black votes?