**II. Expanding the Right to Vote**

A. Basic Right

* **Suffrage –**
* Fundamental right to democracy in theory
* No mention of voting rights in the Constitution

B. Early Limitations

* Women and African Americans were not allowed to vote
* White males could not vote unless they owned a certain amount of property and paid taxes

* **6% -**

C. African American Suffrage

* **Fifteenth Amendment (1870) –**
* After Reconstruction every state rewrote their Constitution to limited the power of blacks

D. Suppressing the Black Vote

* 1) **Poll Tax –**
* 2) **Literacy Test –**
* 3) **Grandfather Clause –**

E. Elimination of Limits

* **1915 –**
* **Twenty-Fourth Amendment –**
* **1966 –**

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* **1970 –**

F. Women’s Suffrage

* **1776-1807 –**
* **1869 –**
* **Nineteenth Amendment (1920) –**
* Results from hard-fought women suffragist such as Susan B. Anthony and Elisabeth Cady Stanton

G. Twenty-Sixth Amendment (1971)

* Lowered the voting age from 21 to 18
* Product of the Vietnam War
* Average age of soldiers was 19.2
* Basic argument was that people were old enough to be drafted and die but not allowed to vote