

KEY LEGISLATION

Hatch Act, 1939:

Limits political activities of civil service employees.

Civil Rights Act of 1964:

Title II bans discrimination in public places on basis of race, color, national origin, or religion.

Title VII:

- Prohibits employment discrimination on basis of all of the above plus sex.
- Allows employers to give racial preferences in hiring.
- Executive Order #11246 required federal contractors to adopt affirmative action programs.
- Allowed class action suits.
- Enforced by EEOC.

Voting Rights Act of 1965:

Suspended literacy tests.

Empowered federal officials to register voters.

Empowered federal officials to ensure that citizens could vote.

Empowered federal officials to count ballots.

Prohibited states from changing voting procedures without federal permission.

Age Discrimination in Employment Act, 1967:

Bans age discrimination for jobs unless age is related to job performance.

Air Quality Act, 1967 and various Clean Air Acts, 1960s-1990s:

Established emissions standards for cars and factories. Established minimum standards for states.

Federal Election Campaign Acts, 1971-1974:

Created FEC.

Required *disclosure* of contributions and expenditures.

Provided *limitations* on contributions and presidential election expenditures.

Provided *subsidies* for presidential candidates.

Title IX of Education Act of 1972:

Prohibited gender discrimination in federally subsidized education programs.

War Powers Act, 1973:

President could send troops overseas to an area where hostilities were imminent only if:

- He notified Congress within 48 hours.
- He withdrew troops within 60-90 days.
- He consulted with Congress if troops were to engage in combat.

Congress can pass resolution to have troops withdrawn at any time.

Freedom of Information Act, 1974:

Allows public access to nonclassified federal documents.

Budget and Impoundment Control Act, 1974:

Established congressional budget committees.
Established CBO.
Extended budget process by three months.
Allows either house to override temporary impoundment (deferral).
Automatically voids permanent impoundment (rescission) unless both houses approve within 45 days.

Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Bill, 1985:

Set gradual budget reduction targets to lead to a balanced budget.
Across-the-board budget cuts (sequestering of funds) to kick in if targets not met.
Loopholes -> abandonment in late 80s.

Americans with Disabilities Act, 1990:

Bans job discrimination against disabled if "reasonable accommodation" can be made.
Requires access to facilities for handicapped.

National Voter Registration Bill ("Motor Voter Act"), 1993:

Requires states to allow people to register to vote when applying for driver's licenses applications or completing license renewal forms.

Religious Freedom Restoration Act, 1993:

Restored compelling purpose guideline for courts to use when states restrict religious liberty. Struck down by Supreme Court in *Boerne v. Flores*.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995:

- Requires CBO to analyze impact of unfunded mandates on states.
- Requires separate congressional vote on bills that impose unfunded mandates.

Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (Welfare Reform Act of 1996):

- Ended federal entitlement status of welfare.
- In its place, federal govt. gave block grants to states to administer welfare.
- "Strings" attached to these grants:
 1. Recipients must work within 2 years.
 2. Recipients cannot receive benefits for more than 5 years.

Defense of Marriage Act, 1996:

- States need not recognize same-sex marriages

No Child Left Behind Act, 2001

States must adopt education accountability standards
States must annually test students
Sanctions against schools that fail to meet adequate yearly progress

USA Patriot Act, 2001:

Strengthens the federal government's power to conduct surveillance, perform searches, and detain individuals in order to combat terrorism.

McCain-Feingold Bill (Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2002:

- Raised hard money limits to \$2000
- Banned soft money contributions to national political parties