EXPANDING VOTING RIGHTS

Percentage of Registered Voters in Black Voting-Age Population

One way to evaluate the success of the Voting Rights Act is to look at the percentages of eligible black voters who registered to vote before the Act passed and after.

Growing Ranks of Registered Voters


1. What do the states in the table have in common? Why are these states (rather than others) included here?

2. Look closely at the data in the table. What overall trend do you see? What do you think accounted for the trend?

3. What exceptions to that trend do you see? What do you think might account for the exceptions? After you examine new limits on voter registration, see if your hypothesis was correct.