

## EXPANDING VOTING RIGHTS

# Property Requirements for Suffrage, 1790-1850

YEAR	STATES IN UNION	STATES WITH PROPERTY REQUIREMENTS
1790	13	10
1800	16	10
1810	17	9
1820	23	9
1830	24	8
1840	26	7
1850	31	4

Source: Keyssar, Alexander. *The Right to Vote: The Contested History of Democracy in the United States*. (NY: Basic Books, 2000), Table A3.

To help you understand the data presented here, answer the following questions.

- How did the number of states in the union change between 1790 and 1850? In the column that shows the number of states in the union, draw an arrow that shows the direction of change.
- How did the number of states with property requirements change during the same time period? In the column that shows the number of states with property requirements for voting, draw an arrow that shows the direction of change.
- Calculate the percentage of states that had property requirements in 1790. Calculate the percentage of states that had property requirements in 1850.
- Based on what you know about American history, what accounted for the change in the number of states?
- What connection can you see between the cause of the change in the number of states and the direction of change in the number of states with property requirements?
- Why do you think might that have been true? List at least two possible reasons.