



FACT SHEET

The Civil Rights Movement: A Blue Print for Immigration Reform

Congressman David Rivera has stated that much like the civil rights movement in the United States, the process of immigration reform will require a sustained and perhaps multi-faceted effort in order to achieve results. Civil rights were not granted in one all-encompassing piece of legislation. It took many years and several legislative efforts.

Below is a timeline of Constitutional amendments and major civil rights legislation:

- **1865- Thirteenth Amendment:** Abolished slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime.
- **1870- Fifteenth Amendment:** Forbade any state to deprive a citizen of his vote because of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.
- **1957- Civil Rights Act of 1957:**
 - Created the six-member Commission on Civil Rights and established the Civil Rights Division in the U.S. Department of Justice.
 - Authorized the U.S. Attorney General to seek court injunctions against deprivation and obstruction of voting rights by state officials.
- **1964- Civil Rights Act of 1964:**
 - Prohibited discrimination in public accommodations, facilities, and schools.
 - Outlawed discrimination in federally funded projects.
 - Created the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to monitor employment discrimination in public and private sectors.
 - Provided additional capacities to enforce voting rights.
- **1965- Voting Rights Act of 1965:**
 - Suspended the use of literacy tests and voter disqualification devices for five years.
 - Authorized the use of federal examiners to supervise voter registration in states that used tests or in which less than half the voting-eligible residents registered or voted.
 - Directed the U.S. Attorney General to institute proceedings against use of poll taxes. Provided criminal penalties for individuals who violated the act.
- **1968- Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Fair Housing Act):**
 - Prohibited discrimination in the sale or rental of approximately 80 percent of the housing in the U.S.
 - Prohibited state governments and Native American tribal governments from violating the constitutional rights of Native Americans.
- **1972- Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972**
 - Prohibited job discrimination for reasons of race, religion, color, national origin and sex.
 - Required that no applicant or employee be rejected from employment or treated unfairly solely because of race, religion, color, national origin or sex.