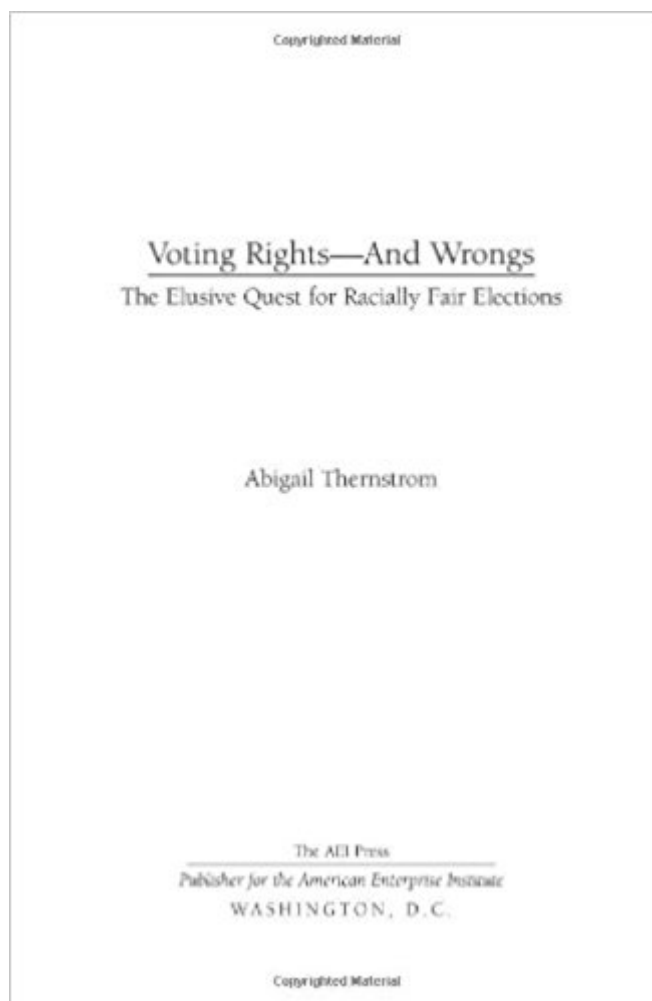


The book was found

# Voting Rights--and Wrongs: The Elusive Quest For Racially Fair Elections



## Synopsis

The 1965 Voting Rights Act is the crown jewel of American civil rights legislation. Its passage marked the death knell of the Jim Crow South. But that was the beginning, not the end, of an important debate on race and representation in American democracy. When is the distribution of political power racially fair? Who counts as a representative of black and Hispanic interests? How we answer such questions shapes our politics and public policy in profound but often unrecognized ways. The act's original aim was simple: Give African Americans the same political opportunity enjoyed by other citizens—the chance to vote, form political coalitions, and elect the candidates of their choice. But in the racist South, it soon became clear that access to the ballot would not, by itself, provide the political opportunity the statute promised. Most southern whites were unwilling to vote for black candidates, and southern states were ready to alter electoral systems to maintain white supremacy. In this provocative book, Abigail Thernstrom argues that southern resistance to black political power began a process by which the act was radically revised both for good and ill. Congress, the courts, and the Justice Department altered the statute to ensure the election of blacks and Hispanics to legislative bodies ranging from school boards and county councils to the U.S. Congress. Proportional racial representation—equality of results rather than mere equal opportunity—became the revised aim of the act. Blacks came to be treated as politically different—entitled to inequality in the form of a unique political privilege. Majority-minority districts that reserved seats for blacks and Hispanics succeeded in integrating southern politics. By now, however, those districts may perversely limit the potential power of black officeholders. “Max-black” districts typically elect candidates to the left of most voters; those officeholders rarely win in majority-white settings. Such race-conscious districting discourages the development of

## Book Information

Paperback: 250 pages

Publisher: AeI Press; 1 edition (June 16, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0844742724

ISBN-13: 978-0844742724

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #1,469,189 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #163 in Books > Law >

Administrative Law > Urban, State & Local Government #1637 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Civics & Citizenship #1956 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Elections & Political Process > Elections

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Voting Rights--and Wrongs: The Elusive Quest for Racially Fair Elections Justice: Rights and Wrongs American Indians and the Fight for Equal Voting Rights America Votes!: A Guide to Modern Election Law and Voting Rights Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America Saving the Neighborhood: Racially Restrictive Covenants, Law, and Social Norms Creative Child Support Strategies A Fathers Rights Approach: A Fathers Rights Approach (The Pro-Active Fathers Rights Series Book 2) Reality Is Not What It Seems: The Elusive Structure of the Universe and the Journey to Quantum Gravity An Elusive Science: The Troubling History of Education Research Invented Eden: The Elusive, Disputed History of the Tasaday Chasing After Bigfoot: My Search for North America's Most Elusive Creature Fathers' Rights: Hard-Hitting and Fair Advice for Every Father Involved in a Custody Dispute Mathematics and Politics: Strategy, Voting, Power, and Proof The The Election Activity Book (2016): Dozens of Activities That Help Kids Learn About Voting, Campaigns, Our Government, Presidents, and More! The Voting Wars: From Florida 2000 to the Next Election Meltdown Quest on the Thorny Path: A True Caribbean Sailing Adventure (Quest and Crew Book 2) The Archer's Tale (The Grail Quest, Book 1): Book One of the Grail Quest Quest: A Guide for Creating Your Own Vision Quest The Quest for Environmental Justice: Human Rights and the Politics of Pollution Puerto Rico under Colonial Rule: Political Persecution and the Quest for Human Rights

[Dmca](#)