



WHO COULD VOTE ... AND WHO COULDN'T

Who could vote and who couldn't under each of New Jersey's three state constitutions? Women? White men who didn't have much money? African Americans? Eighteen-year-olds? Residents of the state for less than one year?

1776 Constitution

"All inhabitants of this colony of full age, who are worth fifty pounds (1) . . . , and have resided within the county in which they claim a vote for twelve months immediately preceding the election, shall be entitled to vote."

1844 Constitution

"Every white male citizen of the United States, of the age of twenty-one years, who shall have been a resident of this state one year, and of the county in which he claims to vote five months. . . shall be entitled to vote."

1947 Constitution

"Every citizen of the United States, of the age of twenty-one,(2) who shall have been a resident of the state one year, and of the county in which he claims his vote five months. . . shall be entitled to vote."

Source: Julian Boyd, *Fundamental Laws and Constitutions of New Jersey*

(1) The basic unit of money used in the British colonies.

(2) Amended to eighteen years of age in 1974.