



Examples of Changes in the Franchise

NOTE: A few unusual words or spellings have been underlined and are clarified in italics.

Massachusetts

Constitution of 1780, Section III. House of Representatives

IV. Every male person, being twenty-one years of age, and resident in any particular town in this Commonwealth for the space of one year... having a freehold estate (*that is, property owned outright*) within the same town, of the annual income of three pounds, or any estate of the value of sixty pounds, shall have a right to vote....

Amendment of 1821

Article III. Every male citizen of twenty-one years of age and upwards... who shall have resided within the commonwealth one year, and within the town or district in which he may claim a right to vote, six calendar months... and who shall have paid, by himself or his parent, master or guardian, any state or county tax...; and also, every citizen who shall be, by law, exempted from taxation, and who shall be, in all other respects, qualified as above mentioned, shall have a right to vote...; and no other person shall be entitled to vote in such election.

New York

Constitution of 1777

VII. That every male inhabitant of full age, who shall have personally resided within one of the counties of this State for six months immediately preceding the day of election, shall... be entitled to vote for representatives...; if, during the time aforesaid, he shall have been a freeholder, possessing a freehold of the value of twenty pounds, within the said county, or have rented a tenement therein of the yearly value of forty shillings, and been rated and actually paid taxes to this State... shall be entitled to vote...

Constitution of 1821, Article II

Section 1. [Qualifications of voters.]—Every male citizen of the age of twenty-one years, who shall have been an inhabitant of this state one year preceding any election, and for the last six months a resident of the town or county where he may offer his vote; and shall have, within the next year preceding the election, paid a tax to the state or county, assessed upon his real or personal property; or shall by law be exempted from taxation; or...shall have performed, within that year, military duty...; and also, every male citizen of the age of twenty-one years, who shall have been, for three years...an inhabitant of this state...shall be entitled to vote in the town or ward where he actually resides...but no man of colour (*color*), unless he shall have been for three years a citizen of this state, and for one year next preceding any election, shall be...possessed of a freehold estate of the

value of two hundred and fifty dollars... shall be entitled to vote at any such election. And no person of colour shall be subject to direct taxation unless he shall be... possessed of such real estate as aforesaid.

New Jersey

Constitution of 1776

All inhabitants of this colony of full age, who are worth fifty pounds (*basic unit of currency in use at the time*)... and have resided within the county in which they claim to vote for twelve months immediately preceding the election, shall be entitled to vote.

1807 New Jersey Legislature's "Act to regulate the election of members of the legislative council and general assembly, sheriffs and coroners in this state"

...no person shall vote in any state or county election for officers in the government of the United States, or of this state, unless such person be a free, white male citizen of this state, of the age of twenty-one years, worth fifty pounds..., and have resided in the county where he claims a vote, for at least twelve months immediately preceding the election.

1844 New Jersey 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.



Analyzing Changes in Voter Participation, Part 1

1. Cite evidence that shows the general trend in voting participation from 1824 to 1828.
2. Cite evidence that shows the general trend in voting participation from 1828 to 1832.
3. The vote had already been expanded in time for the 1824 election when Jackson was also running. Why did the great increase in participation not occur until 1828?
4. In what ways does the chart support the theory that Andrew Jackson's 1828 run for the presidency increased voter participation?
5. Keeping in mind that the trend in the United States had been to extend the vote to less privileged white males, does the chart support the theory that Jackson appealed to the "common man?" In what way(s)?
6. Brainstorm a bit. Other than Jackson's candidacy, what else could explain the increase in voter participation between 1824 and 1828?
7. How might someone who supports the theory that Jackson's 1828 run inspired increased voter participation explain the drop in participation in 1832?
8. Connecticut, Virginia, Louisiana, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Rhode Island all retained property requirements during the period covered on the chart. (NOTE: South Carolina also retained its property requirements, but did not have popular voting for electors at this time.) What differences, if any, do you note in the voting participation in these states compared to other states? Do the data support the idea that extending the franchise greatly increases participation?



Analyzing Changes in Voter Participation, Part II

1. Look at the specifics in the trend in increased voter participation from 1824 and 1828. Did the states in which Jackson won the popular vote show the greatest increase in participation? Point to specific data to support your answer.

2. Look at the decline in voter participation from 1828 to 1832. Do the data on the two charts support the idea that Jackson's virtually assured re-election contributed to the decline in voter participation? Point to specific data to support your answer.

3. Look at the increase in voter participation from 1832 to 1836. Do the data on the two charts substantiate the idea that support for Martin Van Buren, Jackson's handpicked successor, contributed to the increase in voter participation? Point to specific data to support your answer.



Issues in the Election of 1828

Read the selected paragraphs from “[The Presidency of John Quincy Adams](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/database/article_display.cfm?HHID=636),” available at http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/database/article_display.cfm?HHID=636. The issues listed in the chart below were important to the presidential election campaign of 1828 and to Andrew Jackson’s presidency. Describe each issue and note which region of the country, if any, would tend to be strongly against it.

Issue	Description	Region(s) Strongly Against
A strong federal government		
A high tariff		
Indian policy		
The “American System”		



From The Frontier in American History by Frederick Jackson Turner

...there came into the Union a sisterhood of frontier States—Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri—with provisions for the franchise that brought in complete democracy.

Even the newly created States of the Southwest showed the tendency. The wind of democracy blew so strongly from the West, that even in the older States of New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Virginia, conventions were called, which liberalized their constitutions by strengthening the democratic basis of the State. In the same time the labor population of the cities began to assert its power and its determination to share in government. Of this frontier democracy which now took possession of the nation, Andrew Jackson was the very personification.

...At last the frontier in the person of its typical man had found a place in the Government... Every community had its hero. In the War of 1812 and the subsequent Indian fighting Jackson made good his claim, not only to the loyalty of the people of Tennessee, but of the whole West, and even of the nation. He had the essential traits of the Kentucky and Tennessee frontier. It was a frontier free from the influence of European ideas and institutions.

...The Westerner defended himself and resented governmental restrictions.... That method was best which was most direct and effective. The backwoodsman was intolerant of men who split hairs, or scrupled over the method of reaching the right. In a word, the unchecked development of the individual was the significant product of this frontier democracy. It sought rather to express itself by choosing a man of the people, than by the formation of elaborate governmental institutions.

It was because Andrew Jackson personified these essential Western traits that in his presidency he became the idol and the mouthpiece of the popular will.

The triumph of Andrew Jackson marked the end of the old era of trained statesmen for the Presidency. With him began the era of the popular hero.

Source: [The Frontier in American History](http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/TURNER/) [http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/TURNER/] on the EDSITEment resource **American Studies at the University of Virginia**.



Chart for Analyzing 1828 Campaign Materials

Document title	For Jackson or Adams?	Is it about image?	Is it about qualifications?	Is it anti-corruption?	Is it an attack?	Is it about issues?