

# LINCOLN ÜBER ALLES

**Dictatorship Comes  
to America**

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North in any state outside and that right was taken as a law prohibiting free ic opinion was a powerful 1830s, an English visitor to ot vote. He was told, "Just

every state admitted to the Var confined the privilege sted even in Maine. Upon "A Look Back at Slavery in families who owned slaves were chattel property, and arated from Massachusetts m." This article challenges ows several hundred free re nineteenth century, but is. Citing baptism records, y of the blacks counted as y slaves.<sup>45</sup>

he time of statehood means was tolerated there despite other "wealthy people and kept their slaves.

ion by an act of Congress c withholding of the vote utes carried with it a certain y president in office when (Maine) during this period. ncoln himself, who signed itting it in 1863 technically quick to point out that the ult slavery and therefore "free state." However, it is nature on the enabling act a. Voting was also withheld

ow laws passed in order to

limit the liberty of free blacks in Northern states in the prewar ear. It is by no means intended to be an exhaustive list.

**Table 2. Jim Crow Laws in the North**

Year	Location	Jim Crow Law
1777	Vermont	Convention adopts constitution that protects child slavery and Atlantic slave trade. <sup>1</sup>
1786	Vermont	Vermont Constitution of 1786 contains identical protection for child slavery and the Atlantic slave trade that their 1777 Constitution contained. <sup>2</sup>
1792	Delaware	Constitution limits franchise to "free white males."
1802	District of Columbia	Congress establishes municipal government in D.C. that limits the franchise to "free white male" inhabitants. <sup>3</sup>
1803	Ohio	Upon statehood free blacks prohibited from voting; Ohio Constitution protects "virtual slavery" of Negro children. <sup>4,8</sup>
1804	Ohio	Anti-Negro "Black Laws" restrict liberties of free blacks. <sup>8</sup>
1807	New Jersey	Legislature restricts the franchise to "free white male citizens." <sup>3</sup>
1811	New York	Legislature requires free blacks to produce "certificate of freedom" to vote. <sup>3</sup>
1814	Connecticut	Legislature restricts franchise to free white males. <sup>6</sup>
1815	New York	Legislature reenacts 1811 law requiring "certificate of freedom" and voids certificates obtained under an 1813 law. <sup>3</sup>
1815	New Hampshire	Legislature restricts enrollment in the militia to free white males. <sup>10</sup>
1816	Indiana	Upon statehood, legislature prohibits free blacks from voting. <sup>4</sup>
1818	Connecticut	Constitution disenfranchises free blacks not already registered to vote. <sup>3</sup>
1818	Illinois	Constitution at statehood protects human property of slaveholders already in the state. <sup>7</sup>
1819	Illinois	Legislature enacts Negro exclusion law. <sup>9</sup>
1820	New Jersey	Legislature reaffirms law that prohibits free black franchise. <sup>3</sup>

- 1820 District of Columbia By charter Congress authorizes municipal government of D.C. "to restrain and prohibit the nightly and other disorderly meetings of slaves, free Negroes, and mulattoes."<sup>10</sup>
- 1821 New York Voters amend state constitution, restrict free black franchise.<sup>4</sup>
- 1822 Rhode Island Legislature restricts franchise to "white" males and bans interracial marriage.<sup>6,10</sup>
- 1823 Illinois By two-thirds vote the legislature places on the ballot constitutional amendment to make Illinois a slave state. Narrowly defeated by voters.<sup>11</sup>
- 1827 Michigan Territory Territorial legislature enacts Negro exclusion law.<sup>9</sup>
- 1829 Illinois Legislature renews Negro exclusion law.<sup>9</sup>
- 1831 Indiana Legislature enacts Negro exclusion law.<sup>9</sup>
- 1833 Connecticut State Supreme Court allows a lower court ruling to stand that Negroes and Indians are not citizens.<sup>21</sup>
- 1833 Connecticut Legislature criminalizes the establishment of any school for persons of the African race.<sup>10</sup>
- 1836 Rhode Island Legislature amends suffrage law but still applied to "white male persons" only.<sup>6</sup>
- 1836 Massachusetts Legislature renews ban on interracial marriage.<sup>10</sup>
- 1836 Illinois Illinois House of Representatives passes a resolution by two-thirds vote that "the elective franchise should be kept pure from contamination by the admission of colored votes." State Rep. Abraham Lincoln supported the resolution.<sup>22</sup>
- 1837 Pennsylvania State Supreme Court rules that Negroes and mulattos are not entitled to vote.<sup>4</sup>
- 1837 Michigan From statehood, the Michigan Constitution restricts franchise to "white males."<sup>12</sup>
- 1838 Pennsylvania Voters amend state constitution and disenfranchise free blacks.<sup>4</sup>
- 1839 Ohio Ohio House of Representatives passes a resolution that Negroes have no right to petition the legislature "for any purpose whatever."<sup>5</sup>
- 1839 Iowa Territory Legislature enacts Negro exclusion law.<sup>4</sup>
- 1845 Connecticut Constitutional amendment restricts franchise to "white" males.<sup>6</sup>
- 1846 Wisconsin Territory Voters reject free black suffrage.<sup>9</sup>

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- 1846 Iowa Voters reject free black suffrage in original state constitution.<sup>12</sup>
- 1846 New York Voters reject free black suffrage constitutional amendment.<sup>4</sup>
- 1847 Illinois Voters reject free black suffrage constitutional amendment.<sup>12</sup>
- 1847 Connecticut Legislature blocks proposal that would permit free blacks to vote.<sup>3</sup>
- 1848 Oregon Territory From the organization as a territory, the legislature withholds exercise of the franchise from free blacks.<sup>4</sup>
- 1849 Wisconsin Voters reject free black suffrage for a second time.<sup>9</sup>
- 1850 California From statehood, the California Constitution prohibits free blacks from exercising the franchise.<sup>19</sup>
- 1850 Utah Territory From the organization as a territory, the legislature withholds exercise of the franchise from free blacks.<sup>4</sup>
- 1851 Indiana Voters ratify new state constitution that disenfranchises free blacks.<sup>15</sup>
- 1851 Ohio Voters ratify new state constitution that disenfranchises free blacks.<sup>16</sup>
- 1854 Kansas Territory From the organization as a territory, the legislature withholds exercise of the franchise from free blacks.<sup>4</sup>
- 1854 Nebraska Territory From the organization as a territory, the legislature withholds exercise of the franchise from free blacks.<sup>4</sup>
- 1855 Connecticut Voters adopt constitutional amendment requiring proof of literacy to vote.<sup>12</sup>
- 1857 Wisconsin Voters reject free black suffrage for a third time.<sup>9</sup>
- 1857 Massachusetts Voters adopt constitutional amendment requiring proof of literacy to vote.<sup>12</sup>
- 1857 Minnesota From statehood, the Minnesota Constitution prohibits free blacks from exercising the franchise.<sup>12</sup>
- 1857 Iowa Voters ratify a new constitution that retains the disenfranchisement of free blacks.<sup>17</sup>
- 1857 Oregon Voters approve constitution 8 to 1, and in 1859, Oregon became the only state admitted to the Union with a racial exclusion provision in the state constitution; also prohibited exercising the franchise for free blacks, mulattos, and Chinese; prohibited property ownership for blacks and mulattos.<sup>9, 18</sup>

- 1859 Ohio Legislature requires election officials to reject the vote of a person "who has a distinct and visible admixture of African blood."<sup>4</sup>
- 1860 New York Voters reject free black suffrage constitutional amendment for a second time.<sup>4</sup>
- 1861 Nevada Territory From the organization as a territory, the legislature withholds exercise of the franchise from free blacks.<sup>4</sup>
- 1861 Colorado Territory From the organization as a territory, the legislature withholds exercise of the franchise from free blacks.<sup>4</sup>
- 1861 Kansas Admitted as a "free" state but withheld exercise of the franchise from free blacks.<sup>4</sup>
- 1862 Illinois Voters reject free black suffrage; adopt a racial exclusion amendment to the Illinois Constitution.<sup>13</sup>
- 1863 West Virginia Admitted to the Union during the war as a slave state; also prohibited free black franchise.<sup>20</sup>
- 1864 Nevada Prohibited free black franchise from statehood.<sup>4</sup>
- 1865 Connecticut Voters reject black suffrage proposal.<sup>4</sup>
- 1865 Minnesota Voters reject black suffrage proposal.<sup>23</sup>
- 1865 Wisconsin Voters reject free black suffrage for a fourth time.<sup>9</sup>
- 1865 Colorado Territory Voters reject black suffrage proposal.<sup>23</sup>
- 1865 District of Columbia Voters in the nation's capital reject black suffrage proposal.<sup>23</sup>
- 1866 Nebraska Territory Voters reject black suffrage proposal.<sup>23</sup>
- 1867 Ohio Voters reject black suffrage proposal.<sup>4</sup>
- 1867 Connecticut Voters reject black suffrage in special election.<sup>14</sup>
- 1867 Minnesota Voters reject black suffrage proposal a second time.<sup>23</sup>
- 1867 New Jersey Lower house of legislature refuses a proposed amendment to strike the word "white" from the New Jersey Constitution.<sup>14</sup>
- 1867 Kansas Voters reject black suffrage.<sup>4</sup>
- 1868 Pennsylvania Lower house of legislature votes 64 to 14 against a proposed constitutional amendment for black suffrage.<sup>14</sup>
- 1868 Ohio Legislature rejects black suffrage.<sup>12</sup>
- 1868 Michigan Legislature rejects a proposed amendment to strike the word "white" from the Michigan Constitution.<sup>12</sup>
- 1868 New York Voters reject free black suffrage constitutional amendment for a third time.<sup>4</sup>

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