

(Un)Civil Education for Civic Engagement: The Case of Florida

Data for Equitable Justice Lab 2018-2019

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Presentation Outline

- Group discussion & definitions
- Introduction of case study
- Problem statement
- Zoom in: How did I learn this?
- Zoom out: How is this material being taught
- Imagining another way

Group Discussion & Definitions

- What does it mean for education to be “uncivil”?
- What is civic engagement?
- Why am I talking about this?

Case Study: Amendment 4

POLITICS

Over 1 Million Florida Felons Win Right To Vote With Amendment 4

'Our Voice Will Count.' Former Felon Praises Florida Passing Amendment 4, Which Will Restore Voting Rights to 1.4 Million People

Would ex-felon voting rights have flipped Florida for Democrats? It's possible.

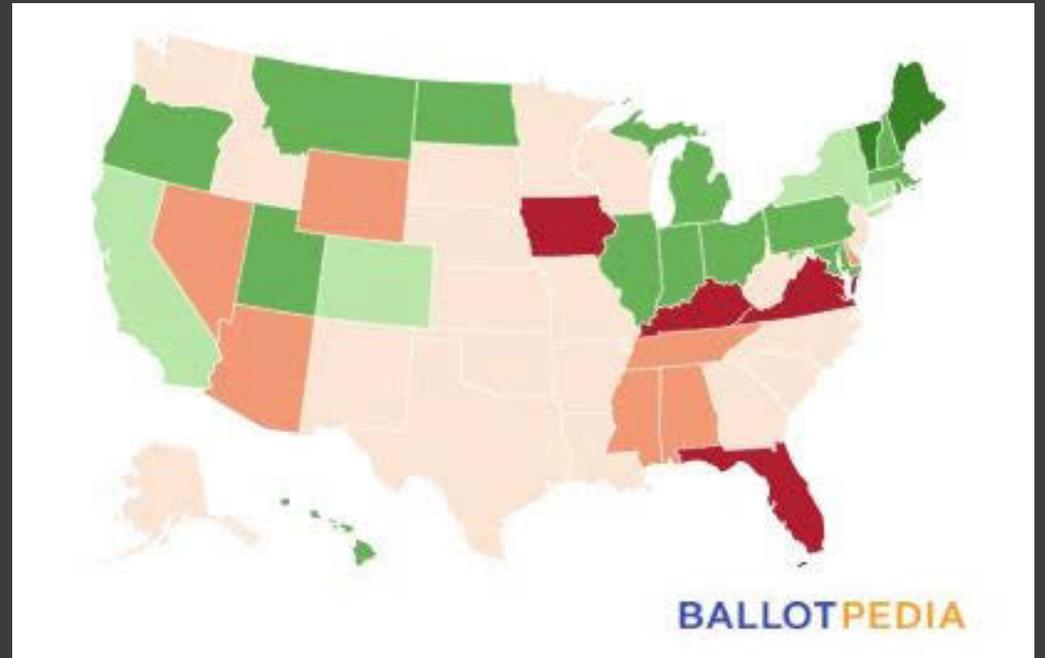
Florida passed a historic expansion of voting rights. Now Republicans want to hobble it.

Amendment 4 in Florida restored voting rights to felons. Now that's back in doubt.

Commentary: Dear Florida legislators: No one cares what you think about Amendment 4. Enact it. | Commentary

What is felony disenfranchisement?

- Felony disenfranchisement: **the denial of the right to vote to incarcerated persons and released ex-offenders who were convicted of certain classified crimes**¹
- Currently practiced in 48 states and Washington, D.C.
- Different degrees:
 - Restorative
 - Modified
 - Permanent
- 6 million Americans impacted, or 2.2%²



¹Encyclopedia of Race and Racism, 2013

²The Sentencing Project, 2016

Too many Floridians are excluded from civic engagement because of a felony record.

- 1.6 million (27%) of all impacted Americans
- 1.4 million (88%) are estimated to have completed the terms of their sentence
- Comprise 10% of the voting age population
- Affects almost 20% of the state's Black population
- Amendment 4 was passed with 65% of the vote
- New policy went into effect 1/8/2019

Zoom in: How did I learn this?

Zoom out: How is this being taught?

FL DOE Social Studies Standards Grades 6-8:

“The primary content emphasis for this course pertains to the study of the chronological development of the state of Florida by examining the political, economic, social, military and cultural events that affected the state including the evolution of Florida's diverse heritage through Spanish, French, British and American occupations, Florida's Native American population, United States annexation and territorial experience, statehood, Florida's role in sectionalism, Florida's system of slavery, Civil War and Reconstruction, Florida's diverse geographic regions and population groups, state government, modern day Florida's successes and challenges, and the projection of Florida's future development. “

Constitutional Amendments Expansion Democracy

★ 13th Amendment

Amendment 13 (1865)

Neither slavery nor **involuntary servitude**, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their **jurisdiction**.

Click bold words for definitions

- Constitutionally abolished slavery in the U.S.
- Ended most divisive issue for all time



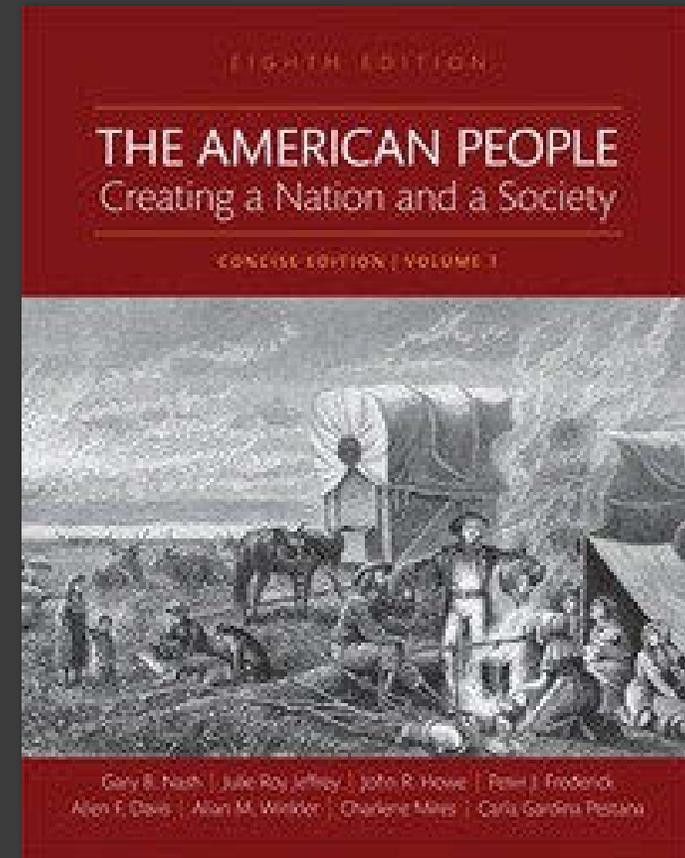
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Constitution

◀ BACK NEXT ▶

Zoom out: How is this being taught?

FL DOE Social Studies Standards Grades 9-12:

*“The primary content emphasis for this course pertains to the study of United States history **from Reconstruction to the present day**. Students will be exposed to the historical, geographic, political, economic and sociological events which influenced the development of the United States and the resulting impact on world history. So that students can clearly see the relationship between cause and effect in historical events, students should have the opportunity to review those fundamental ideas and events which occurred before the end of Reconstruction.”*



Imagining another way...

What you need to know about
Felony
Disenfranchisement
in FL.



* and what your
HISTORY BOOKS
won't tell you.

(Trust me, I checked.)



A zine by Christine Pappas, MSW/MSSP

University of Pennsylvania, 2019
Brown University, 2014
Trinity Preparatory School, 2010

GO SAINTS!

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questions? comments? concerns?