The Voting Rights Act. One of the most important aspects of incorporating the voices of all citizens into the legislature, is guaranteeing that citizens that belong to racial and linguistic minority groups can freely and equally participate in elections. In the U.S., no piece of legislation has been more important in ensuring voting rights to previously disenfranchised groups than the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 guarantees the right to vote to racial, ethnic and language minority citizens. Recent presidential elections have exposed enormous problems with our voting processes. The Voting Rights Act remains a valuable tool to protect the ability of minorities to elect their preferred candidates. Do you want to read the rest of this article? Request full-text.

Recent work challenges traditional understandings of the link between race and voter turnout, suggesting that there is limited evidence of increased minority voting due to co-ethnic representation and majority-minority districts. The Voting Rights Act (VRA), passed in 1964, has played a critical role in increasing the number of African American and Latino elected officials. Section 5 of the act requires “covered jurisdictions” to seek preclearance for any new voting practice or procedure from either the D.C. District Court or the U.S. Attorney General.