



Elections in Richmond: A History

EARLY HISTORY

17TH Century

1607: English settlers establish the **Colony of Virginia**, there are initially no formal elections, but the colony has to establish its own governing structures.

1619: The first legislative body, **the House of Burgesses**, meets in Jamestown. This meeting marks the onset of representative democracy in the United States.



18TH CENTURY

1737: Richmond is established as a city officially in Virginia.

1782: Richmond is officially designated as the **capital of Virginia**, allowing the local government (legislative, executive, and judiciary) to officially develop.



19TH CENTURY

1861: Virginia secedes from the Union during the **Civil War** and establishes Richmond as the **Capital of the Confederacy**. (until the end of the war in 1865)

1870s: **John H. Adams** becomes one of the first African American men to serve on City Council, representing Jackson Ward.



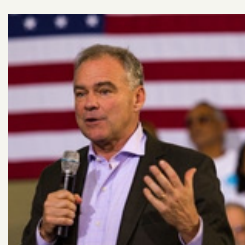
20TH CENTURY

1965: **The Voting Rights Act** is established across the United States and Virginia is forced to practice fair voting methods, with the absence of any racial discrimination.

1977: **Henry Marsh III** is elected as the first Black mayor, strongly showcasing the advance of Civil Rights in Richmond.

1994: **Tim Kaine** is elected to City Council with a platform based around urban development and problems in Richmond.

1998: **Tim Kaine** is elected as the mayor of Richmond, where he continued to focus on similar issues, but also placed a strong focus on education reform.



21ST CENTURY

2001: **Tim Kaine** makes the decision to expand his career path in government, and is elected as the **Lieutenant Governor of Virginia**, serving until 2005.

2005: Tim Kaine is then elected as the **Governor of Virginia**, achieving strides such as education reform and furthering economic development.

2008: Elections in the City of Richmond become a key focus nation-wide, as it played a monumental role in the shift of Virginia from a red state to a swing state. This played a large part in **Barack Obama's Presidential victory**.

2016: **Levar Stoney** is elected as the mayor of Richmond. This is important historically as at age 35, he is the youngest elected mayor in the history of Richmond.

