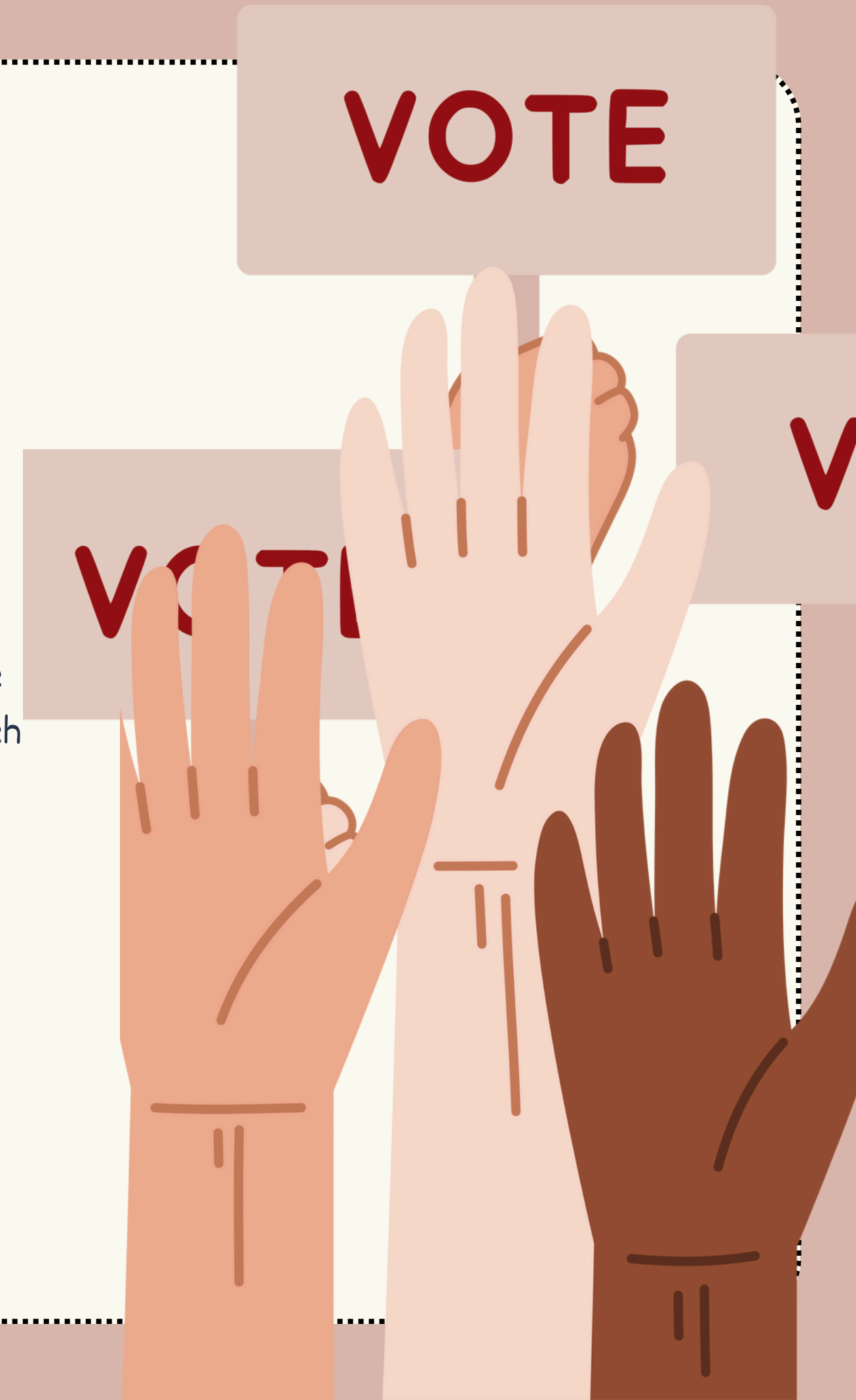


WHY YOUR VOTE MATTERS



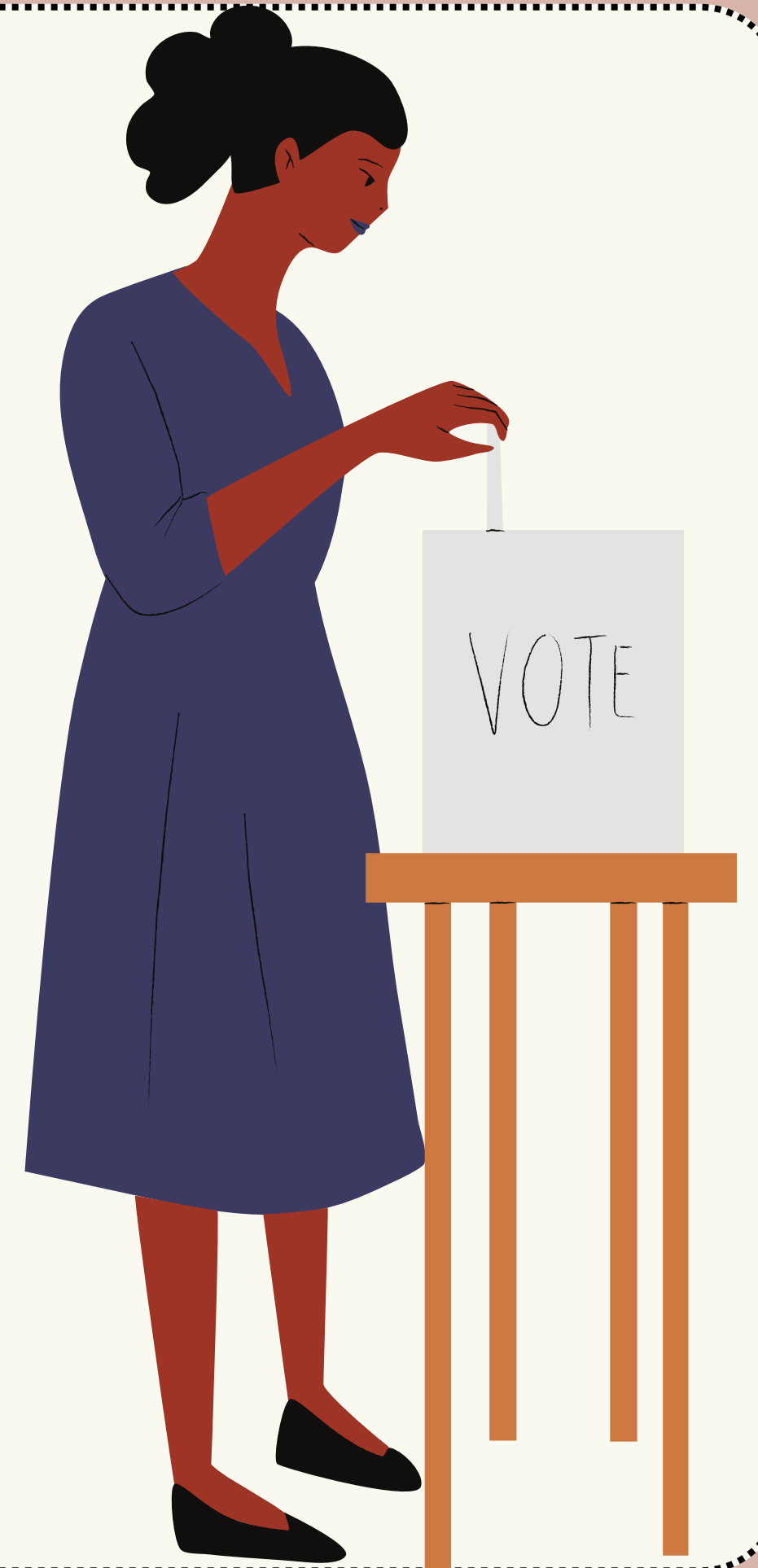
The Electoral College:

- The electoral college is a process by which the president is elected. The number of electors in any state is equal to the number of U.S. Senators and representatives that the state has in Congress (determined by the population of the state)
- North Carolina has 2 senators and 14 representatives for a total of 16 electors
- A majority of 270 electoral votes is required to win the presidency.
- During the general election, your vote helps determine your state's electors. When you vote for a presidential candidate, you aren't voting for president. You are telling your state which candidate you want your state to vote for at the meeting of electors. **The states use these general election results, also known as the popular vote, to appoint their electors.**
 - It's possible for a president to win the popular vote, but not win the presidency. This is because the popular vote is a cumulation of all votes, but does not account for the electoral votes awarded to the candidates.
- Many voters choose not to participate because they feel their vote doesn't matter, don't care about politics, don't like the options or aren't registered to vote.
 - While the 2020 election had a record turnout, 80 million Americans did not participate



How & Why Voting in Local Elections is Important:

- Local governments are responsible for providing the services, and passing policies, that are critical to our daily lives (i.e. overseeing zoning decisions, housing services, emergency medical services, public transportation, road maintenance, trash collection, utilities, and more).
- It is estimated that about only 27% of eligible voters vote in the typical municipal elections, not only is this turnout low, but those who do vote are generally not representative of the community (ex. older homeowners).
- The fact that votes are low in local elections makes every vote matter even more, as critical decisions are being made daily at the local level, and those who vote in these elections are helping shape those decisions, often by just a handful of votes.
- It is also at the local level that our senate and house representatives are elected, who then make up our electoral college and can be the individuals representing our voices at federal levels.



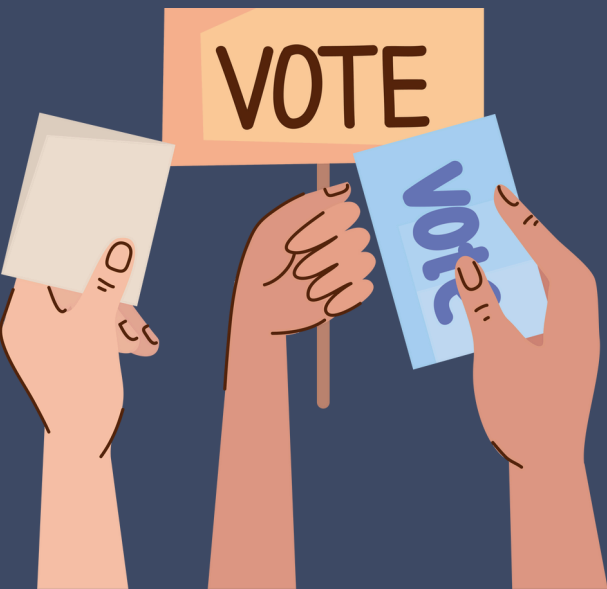
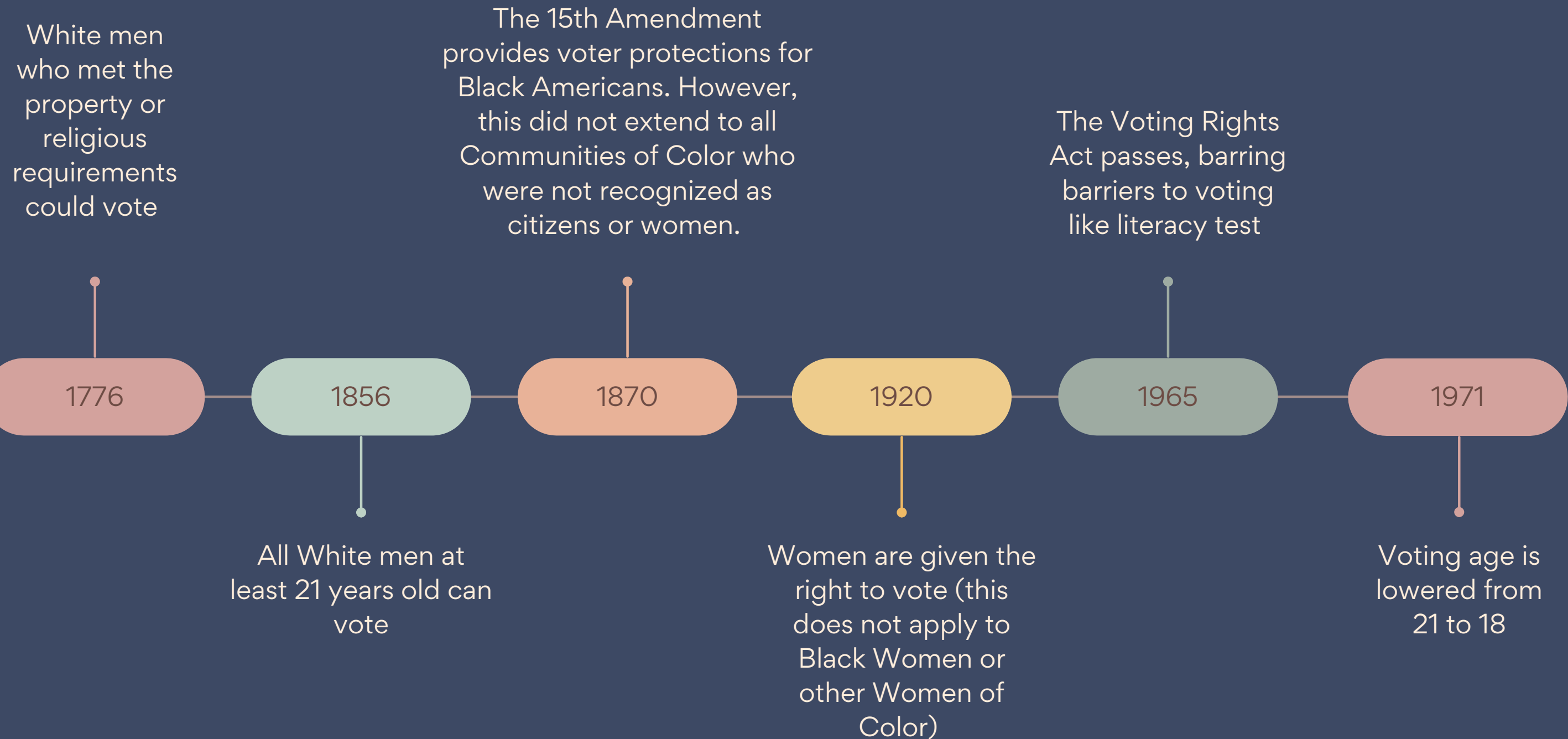
A single vote CAN make a difference

Notable elections that were decided by a single (or a few) vote(s) in the last 20 years:

- 2008: In the U.S. Senate Race, Al Franken (D) defeated Norm Coleman (R) by just 312 votes out of almost 2.9 million that were cast, which gave Democrats a 60-vote supermajority in the senate.
- 2016: A Senate Democratic primary election was determined by a single vote out of almost 7,500 cast in the state of Vermont
- 2018: the democratic primary for Baltimore County in Virginia was decided by 17 votes.
- 2022: In the state of Minnesota, the Democratic-Farmer-Labor party won a trifecta in state government for the first time since 2014 due to Judy Seeberger being elected into State Senate by only 321 votes.



Timeline of Voters Rights in the United States



Challenges of Democracy

- Voter identification laws
- Gerrymandering
- Fear and misinformation .
- Washington, D.C. & U.S. Territories
- Difficulties with changing the system
- Voter apathy



So...does your vote matter?

Your vote matters because it's your chance to influence decisions that affect your life and community. Every election shapes policies on education, healthcare, the economy, and more. When you vote, you express your values and priorities, and your participation helps ensure that a wider range of voices and perspectives are heard. Even a small number of votes can sway an election, making each vote significant in shaping the future.

