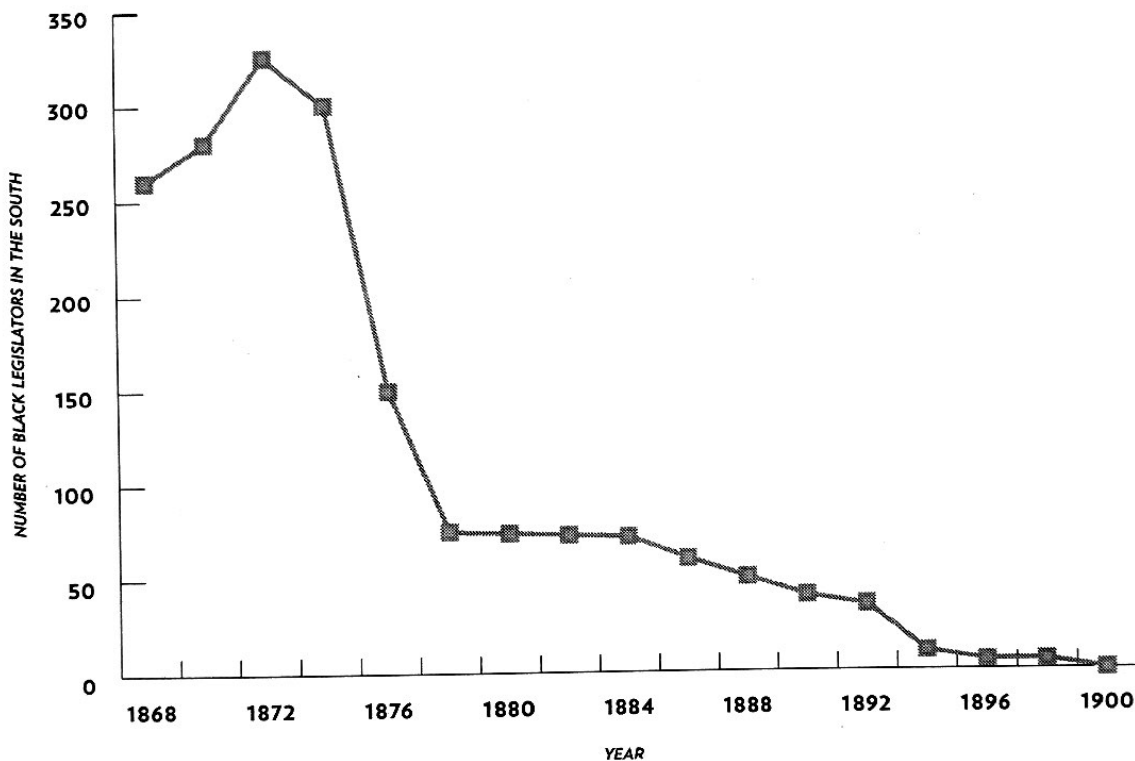


In Dallas County, Alabama, local officials made it inconvenient and difficult to register to vote. The office was open only during business hours on the first and third Monday of each month. New registrants needed someone already registered to vouch for them, and registered voters were limited in the number of people for whom they could vouch each year.

Economic weapons were also used against black voters; just trying to register could mean losing a job, having a loan called in or being evicted from a home. In Selma, employees of a local nursing home were fired in 1963 for trying to register to vote. In many towns, newspapers printed the names of all voter applicants, which made the job of intimidation even easier.

**BLACK LEGISLATORS IN THE SOUTH  
1868-1900**



**Focus Questions**

The 15th Amendment says that voting could not be restricted because of race. How did Southern states prevent African Americans from exercising their right to vote?

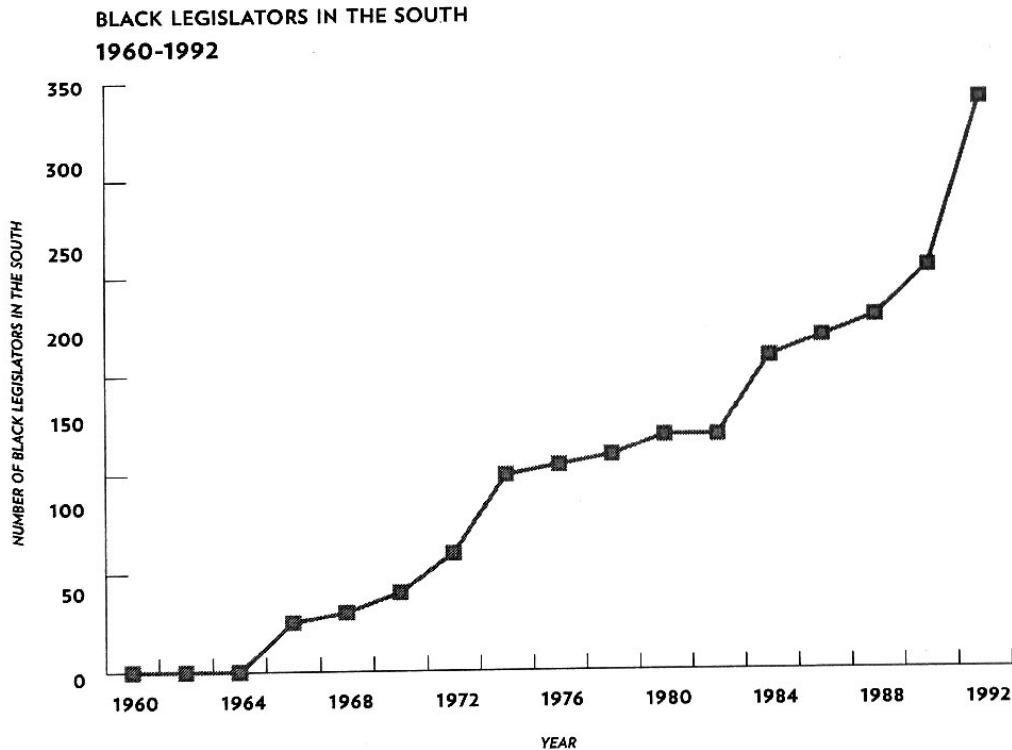
When did the number of black legislators reach its peak? Based on what you've learned about U.S. history, can you explain the trend depicted in the graph?

When did the number of black legislators begin to fall? What might account for that decrease?

Make a prediction for the data for the next ten years after the last date on the chart. Explain your prediction.

Adapted from *Free at Last: A History of the Civil Rights Movement and those Who Died in the Struggle*

## Expanding Numbers of Black Legislators in the South



### Numbers Tell a Story

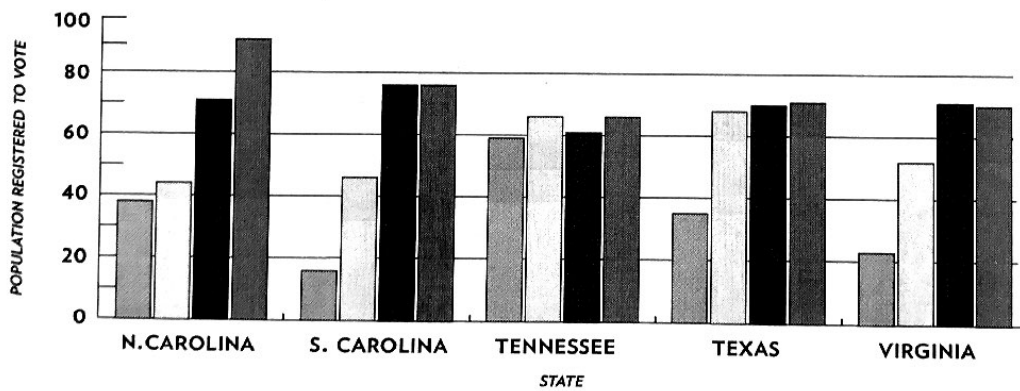
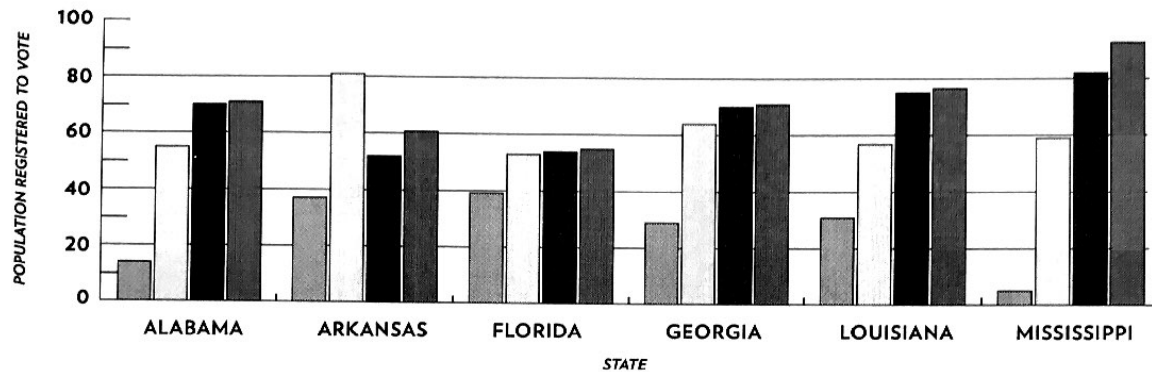
- What story does this graph tell?
- Based on what you've learned about U.S. history, can you explain the trend depicted on the graph?
- Write a sentence to describe the data captured in this graph. What story does this graph tell?
- When did the number of elected black legislators begin to rise? What might account for that increase?

# The Voting Rights Act, 1965

## Impact in the South

*Selma: The Bridge to the Ballot* ends with passage of the Voting Rights Act and with the news that over 250,000 new black voters were registered in Alabama by the end of 1965. The impact wasn't limited to Alabama, however—it was felt throughout the South.

## Growing Ranks of Registered Voters



% OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN BLACK VOTING-AGE POPULATION 1960\*  
 % OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN BLACK VOTING-AGE POPULATION 1971\*  
 % OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN BLACK VOTING-AGE POPULATION 2008\*\*  
 % OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN BLACK VOTING-AGE POPULATION 2012\*\*\*

\*Source: Faragher, et al. (2003). *Out of Many: A History of the American People*. (Upper Saddle River, NJ), p. 492.  
 \*\*Source: Table 4b. Reported Voting and Registration of the Voting-Age Population, by Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin, for States, November 2008. Link through: www.census.gov/hhes/www/tables/voting/publications/p20-2008/tables.html  
 \*\*\*Source: Table 4b. Reported Voting and Registration of the Voting-Age Population, by Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin, for States, November 2012. Link through: www.census.gov/hhes/www/tables/voting/publications/p20-2012/tables.html

### Focus Questions

What do the states shown have in common? Why are these states included in this graph and not others?

What trend do you see between 1960 and 1971? Between 1971 and 2008? Between 2008 and 2012? What do you think accounts for each change?

Are there exceptions to the trend? What might account for these?