

**1965****January 2**

Over 700 people defy the Hare injunction by attending a mass meeting at Brown Chapel, where Dr. King speaks.

**January 18**

Three hundred people, half of them high school students, attend a morning song service. Marches begin when the voter registration office opens.

**January 19**

Sheriff Clark beats and arrests Amelia Boynton, a founder of the DCVL and a key Selma organizer.

**January 19-21**

Activists, including children, continue to march despite the sheriff's tactics, such as the use of cattle prods.

**January 22**

More than 100 black teachers join the movement, marching from Clark Elementary School to the Selma courthouse. After being beaten back by club-wielding officers, they return to Brown Chapel, where 300 students greet them jubilantly.

**January 25-29**

Every day, hundreds of black voter registration applicants wait at the courthouse; mass arrests follow.

Alabama Governor George Wallace dispatches 50 state troopers to reinforce Sheriff Clark's men.

**February 1**

Dr. King and Ralph Abernathy, who has been helping King organize nonviolent protest campaigns since 1955, lead an adult march from Brown Chapel to the Selma courthouse. Both are arrested.

**February 2-3**

More than 2,000 civil rights protesters have been arrested in Selma since January 18.

In cities across the country, activists organize demonstrations and sit-ins in support of those fighting for civil rights in Selma.

**February 4**

President Johnson issues a statement in support of voting rights.

**February 5**

C.T. Vivian—a member of the SCLC's executive staff—leads a group of adult activists to the courthouse; they are arrested.

Following the adults' arrests, 450 students approach the courthouse and are arrested as well. In Dallas and Perry counties, 3,850 civil rights activists have been arrested to date.

Dr. King and Ralph Abernathy are released on bail.

**February 9**

Dr. King meets with President Johnson, Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and Attorney General Nicholas B. Katzenbach in Washington, D.C. President Johnson promises voting legislation soon.

- February 10** With leaders in jail, students have begun self-organizing. One hundred and sixty protest at the courthouse where Sheriff Clark's men, using batons and cattle prods, force the young marchers out of town and down isolated country roads.
- February 15** Voter registration offices are open for the last time in February; 1,500 activists participate in the largest march to date in Selma.
- February 18** In the nearby city of Marion, state troopers join Sheriff Clark's men and swarm the town. They arrest James Orange for "contributing to the delinquency of minors" by encouraging students to march and sing freedom songs.
- Civil rights supporters plan a short nighttime march to sing to Orange in jail. Police and state troopers attack and pursue fleeing marchers, including Jimmie Lee Jackson, into Mack's Café.
- Jackson is shot by state trooper Jim Fowler and brought to Good Samaritan Hospital in Selma.
- February 26** Jimmie Lee Jackson dies in Selma.
- March 3** R.B. Hudson High School students boycott classes to attend Jimmie Lee Jackson's funeral service. Dr. King's sermon points at police brutality and the timidity of the federal government.
- Dr. King announces the plan to bring the issue to Governor Wallace's doorstep with a march from Selma to Montgomery.
- Governor Wallace orders state troopers to prevent the march.
- March 6** Concerned White Citizens of Alabama, a group led by Reverend Joseph Ellwanger of Birmingham, marches in support of civil rights, the first pro-civil rights action taken by white activists in the area.
- March 7** Over 600 protesters leave Brown Chapel and cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge. At the far side, they are met by 50 riot-gearred state troopers on horseback, along with Sheriff Clark's deputies and several dozen of his "posse."
- As the marchers kneel to pray, the troopers charge into the crowd, clubbing people and firing tear gas. Nationwide coverage of what becomes known as Bloody Sunday focuses the eyes of the nation—and Washington, D.C.—on Selma.
- Dr. King issues a nationwide call for people of conscience to come to Selma and march on March 9.

- March 8** SCLC lawyers file a motion before U.S. District Court Judge Frank Johnson in Montgomery to prevent the state of Alabama from blocking the march.
- SNCC, the DCVL and the SCLC put pressure on the U.S. Department of Justice and the White House to protect the march and take action on a voting rights bill with teeth. Supporters around the country demonstrate in support of the Selma activists.
- In Selma, thousands of activists flood Brown Chapel. State troopers mass in the city as well.
- March 9** Judge Johnson has issued an injunction against the march, which Dr. King decides to obey. Dr. King leads 2,000 people to the Edmund Pettus Bridge, kneels to pray, and turns the march around.
- That night, three ministers who have traveled to Selma to support the movement are attacked. Minister James Reeb is the most seriously injured.
- March 10** News of the attack on James Reeb prompts more voting rights demonstrations around the country. Pressure mounts on Washington, D.C.
- Selma police surround the George Washington Carver Homes to contain marchers. Protesters dub the police line the “Berlin Wall.”
- Judge Johnson begins hearings to decide whether to allow the march.
- March 11** James Reeb dies.
- March 15** President Johnson addresses the nation and a joint session of Congress to propose a sweeping voting rights act.
- March 17** Judge Johnson rules in favor of the marchers and orders Governor Wallace to protect the march to the capital.
- March 21** Thousands of marchers depart from Brown Chapel in Selma headed for Montgomery and planning to stop at campsites along the way.
- March 25** In the final four miles of the march, the group swells to 25,000 people. Montgomery is eerily quiet: Governor Wallace has urged white people to stay home, proclaiming a “danger holiday” for the state’s white female employees.
- Dr. King delivers his “Our God Is Marching On” address.
- Later that night, Viola Liuzzo, a white civil rights activist, is killed by members of the Ku Klux Klan after leaving the protest.

**August 6**

President Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Act forbids literacy tests; empowers the U.S. Department of Justice and federal courts to monitor problem jurisdictions; and, most importantly, requires jurisdictions with a history of discrimination to receive federal approval before they can make any changes in voting procedures or requirements.

**December**

The number of registered black voters in Dallas County has risen from 383 before passage of the Voting Rights Act to about 9,000—slightly more than half the black voting age population. Across the South, the number of black voters rises to approximately 250,000 by the end of the year.

