

Section 2 Guided Reading and Review
Voter Qualifications

Read pages 152-157.

A. As You Read

As you read Section 2, answer the following questions in the space provided.

1. According to the Constitution, can aliens vote? _____
2. Do any State governments today allow aliens to vote? _____
3. What are the two reasons that States adopted residency requirements?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
4. What is the longest period of residence that any State today requires before permitting new residents to vote? _____
5. What is the oldest minimum age a State can set for voters? _____
6. What kinds of information are voters usually asked to give when they register to vote? _____
7.
 - a. Why do some people argue that voter registration ought to be abolished? _____
 - b. Why do others believe registration is important? _____
8. What were the three provisions of the Motor Voter Law? _____
9. Why were literacy tests abolished? _____
10. In what region of the country was the poll tax once used? Why was it abolished? _____
11. What groups of persons are widely barred from voting? _____

B. Reviewing Key Terms

Complete each sentence by writing the correct term in the blank provided.

12. _____ is the ability to read or write.
13. A _____ was a sum of money that had to be paid by the voter at the time he or she cast a ballot.
14. _____ is a procedure for voter identification.
15. Election officials are regularly supposed to _____ their _____ of the names of those who no longer meet voting requirements.
16. Most States prohibit _____, people who live there for a short time, from being considered legal residents.



General Collection

Letter from Lucy Stone to the Tax Collector of Orange, New Jersey, 1857



Lucy Stone

Lucy Stone was an early leader of the women's suffrage movement in the United States and helped to organize the first national convention for equal rights for women, held in Massachusetts in 1850. Stone is also believed to be the first woman in the United States to keep her own last name after marrying. In fact, in later years, women who kept their names became known as "Lucy Stoners." In 1857 Stone and her husband, Henry Blackwell, bought a home in Orange, New Jersey. When it came time to pay their tax bill in November, Stone refused to pay and wrote the following letter to the local tax collector. The next year, many of Stone's possessions were auctioned off to pay the tax bill, although friends bought many items and returned them to her.

Orange, N. J.

Mr. Mandeville, Tax Collector, Sir:

Enclosed I return my tax bill, without paying it. My reason for doing so is that women suffer taxation and yet have no representation, which is not only unjust to one half of the adult population, but is contrary to our theory of government. For years some women have been paying their taxes under protest but still taxes are imposed and representation is not granted. The only course now left us is to refuse to pay the tax. We know well what the immediate result of this refusal must be.

But we believe that when the attention of men is called to the wide difference between their theory of government and its practices in this particular, they cannot fail to see the mistake they now make by imposing taxes on women, while they refuse them the right of suffrage, and that the sense of justice which is in all good men, will lead them to correct it. Then shall we cheerfully pay our taxes—not till then.

Respectfully,
Lucy Stone

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Questions for Discussion

1. Why did Lucy Stone refuse to pay her tax bill?
2. What results did Stone expect from her protest?
3. What did Lucy Stone believe would happen when men became aware of the fact that women were taxed but had no representation?