



A Snapshot of Rights in the Early Republic

	Vote	Serve on Jury	Own Property
<i>White man with property</i>	Always	Always	Always
<i>White man without property</i>	Sometimes	Always	Always
<i>Enslaved woman</i>	Never	Never	Never
<i>Free African American man</i>	Sometimes	Never	Always
<i>White woman</i>	Sometimes	Never	Sometimes

Notes:

- On the eve of the Revolution, less than 60% of adult white males could vote. By 1790, roughly 60-70% of adult white males could vote.
- Many states replaced property-holding requirements for voting with requirements that voters be able to pay taxes; this provision thus excluded apprentices, male domestic servants, and the poorest members of society
- In the 1770s and 1780s, most northern states (and North Carolina) allowed free African-American men who met property requirements to vote.
- New Jersey allowed women to vote from 1776 to 1807, provided they owned property.
- In some New England towns, Native American men were allowed to vote. Starting with Kentucky in 1792, most new states specifically excluded Native Americans.

U.S. Population, 1790

The numbers below are based on population count that includes 16 states in 1790. The 1790 census recorded five categories of people: free white males over 16, free white males under 16, free white females, other free people, and slaves. The census did not separate “other free people” by gender or race and did not separate slaves by gender. In 1790, the U.S. was a very young nation; about half of the population was under the age of 16.

Total Population: 3,893,635		
<i>Group</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage Estimate</i>
Free white males	1,598,944	41.1%
Free white females	1,541,263	39.5%
Other free people	59,511	1.5%
Slaves	694,280	17.8%

Figures based on the 1790 census