



could not have predicted exactly the shape that this topic would take this November.

03:02

Before we get into the present I want to zoom out right we're talking about legacies this year so or this semester so legacies of voter suppression. In many ways you can think of the history of us democracy through just the history of voting rights, right and the first US presidential election

Just to give you a sense of the disparities in Arizona, alone, the city of Scottsdale is about 184 square miles and has 12 post offices, the Navajo Nation is over 27,000 square miles, and has just 26 post offices total that's larger than the state of West Virginia, which has over 650 post offices, so you can see just in terms of access to mailing.

06:19

There's structural inequalities that shape who has access to the balance, who doesn't. So you can see here in some of the topics I've laid out there's a spectrum of voter suppression from

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Dr. Precious Hall

08:52

Thank you.

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Stephen Pasqualina

08:54

Natalie Van Hoozer is a freelance multimedia journalist and translator based in Reno. She reports in both English and Spanish for KUNR public radio, the NPR member station, which serves Northerner data, and part of Northern California.

09:09

Since the pandemic started she has reported on public health education, immigration, and most recently the 2020 general election. She was also the US ambassador for December media, a Spanish language media nonprofit dedicated to supporting Spanish language media entrepreneurs. She graduated from you in our in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in journalism and Spanish. Welcome to Natalie.

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Natalie Van Hoozer

09:33

Thanks so much.

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Natalie, feel free to chime in on. Greta you've written on voter suppression tactics in the south.

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Throughout the 20th century, and could you talk to us a bit about how African American votes have been suppressed after the passing of the 15th amendment in 1870, which promise that no one could be denied voting rights based on according to the language of the amendment race, color, or previous condition of servitude. Could you talk to us a little bit about how some questions has happened for African Americans posts 15th amendment.

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Dr. Greta de Jong

10:57

So the post Civil War era the area code reconstruction, was when the 13th amendment was passed and that opened up a lot of political participation by African American men and the South who voted and very high numbers and were elected to political office and African Americans helped to elect more progressive republican dominated state governments in the south.

11:26

During that period and that late 1860s and 1870s. And just as a reminder in the 19th century republican Party was the party of abolition and supported black civil rights and the Democratic Party scolded slavery and white supremacy so the the election of these republican governance was really good black African Americans and also the poor whites and this as well they passed a lot of legislation that was in the interest of working people and poor people, they created the first public schools in the south, and things like that.

12:01

And this upset a lot of white Southerners who did not think that African Americans should be participating in politics and particularly upset. The wealthy plantation owners who were used to running everything in the south and didn't like the reforms that these new republican governments were implementing so they mobilize to regain control of their state governments in the south using intimidation and violence.

12:32

And this was the era when the first Ku Klux Klan emerged and really kind of operated as kind of a paramilitary terrorist wing of the Democratic Party threatening people, beating people up murdering their political opponents really surprised, like directly suppressing voter participation by African Americans and also what republicans is now.

12:59

Eventually all the southern state governments because of those tactics came back home to Democratic Party control, and then the 1880s and 1890s they were able to pass legislation and to prevent African Americans, and also pull it people often from 13 so it's things like literacy tests and poll taxes and residency requirements disqualifying people.



That is really a tremendous condensed history of a lot of complex dynamics that work. Thank you for that.

16:16

Unless anybody wants to chime in, I had a question for Precious maybe kind of transitioning into the question of African American disenfranchisement to I know Christmas use some of your work has it been about roadblocks for young people seeking to participate in elections, could you tell us a little bit about what factors have contributed to depressing voter turnout among young people.

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Dr. Precious Hall

16:38

Okay, sure. I think one of the first things that we have to acknowledge is when it comes to the youth vote in depends on which organization you look at and some define between 18 and 25 some 18 to 29 or less for the sake of this conversation say, under 30. I think the youth, get a bad rap in the sense that will since they're typically the lowest percentage the lowest, lowest age group in terms of going to turn out that they're very apathetic or they just don't care.

17:07

And that's not the reality of what's happening in our country. For those of us who are over the age of 30. Think about how much transition we went through in our lives between the ages of 18 and 30 that encompasses graduating from high school, moving away from home, potentially going away to college potentially having children getting married, etc. It is a time of a lot of instability, and that instability, coupled with the fact that we do not have uninformed voter registration in this country is one of the biggest barriers that we see.

17:51

So you know so many people will say well, but don't we register students to vote in high school. Most High Schools actually do that. But will we don't take into account is if we teach them how to be able to engage in absentee voting, how to get a absentee ballot, or do we even teach them that they have to go in the county in which they are registered in many people don't understand that especially young voters.

18:26

In addition, if I am 18 years old and new to this process. Maybe I know that in my state, I have to be registered to go at least 45 days prior to the election but in some states, it's 30 days. Some individuals think that they can do same day voter registration. So it's very confusing, particularly when you're looking to do it as a young person for the first time.

18:53

So that's one of the major things that we have to acknowledge is, it's just a big time of transition. And because there's no universal system of registration and you have to be registered to vote where you are, you have to be registered where you are.

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24:38

And so, one family in northern Nevada. Just all became citizens. Well, the the parents and the older daughter who I spoke to became citizens this year, and then the younger brother turned 18 so there are different reasons that this family was voting for the first time, and figuring out how to do it together and so their interview is a nice anecdote to explain some of these language access barriers that we see and the parents they understand English and, but they

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Getting rid of voter ID laws is a reform, but if you're insisting on having voter ID laws, providing free government issued IDs, would be a simple reform as well. It's unfair to have one and not the other because it becomes the equivalent of having to pay a fee in order to vote, and it's

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34:31

Okay so, first and foremost, I'll start off using the constitution so the constitution specifies, we have a members if you're using an older women, you can't deny the rights of all based on color previous condition of servitude.

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So basically you're a citizen, 18 or older, you get to vote in this country or you're eligible to vote in this country. The Constitution also prescribes when elections, when general elections take place they take place.

34:51

In November, the first Tuesday in November, after the first Monday every two years. But the constitution also said that the time, place, and manner of elections are left to the individual states. So, each state gets to decide what time the place in the manner. As long as people are allowed to vote in November.

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Everything else is left to the states to decide. So that's the constitutional foundation for why it differs and we don't have one national law, but to get to the deeper question of why some states choose.

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To make it easier to engage in early voting or registration etc In some states don't. If I were a conspiracy theorist, which I'm not but if I were the answer to that question would be, we have to look at who benefits and keeping a narrow scope for who actually shows up to vote.

35:58

So what studies and statistics actually show us is that early voting and mail in ballots are used more by Democrats, Republicans, typically vote, more, the day of the election. Now if you ask why that is, we have to look at everything else that we said we also have to have a conversation



limit voting today.

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Natalie Van Hoozer

40:03

Oh yeah, just to add quickly on just the idea of like the unintentional voter suppression as well a lot of what I saw, wasn't even deliberate attempts of suppressing people's right to vote but as far as like language access.

49:19

It was just that things were not laid out in a way that people could could easily get to and and those kinds of things would would be solved by taking the time to you know have a test group and see if it worked for people so part of it too is just seeing what works for users.

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Stephen Pasqualina

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Absolutely. I think a lot of the structures that we're talking about assume a certain identity or set of identities that these, you know systems are designed for right so ballots written in labyrinthine legally use right or obviously designed for native English speakers who are highly educated.

40:54

A question from AJ Matthew. I'd be curious to know if any of you have insights on this because I don't really, um, could there be a way for people to vote online with that raise security issues that seems like a democratizing. You know way of solving all these voting issues.

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Dr. Greta de Jong

41:14

I think there may be security issues but I know from experience that it's possible because that's

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to be in Argentina during these general elections so I got all set up to vote, you know as a US citizen overseas and Nevada did implement an online voting system.

42:19

This year I believe was the first year, in addition to being able to scan in paper ballots to the registrar voters office they have an online system that they're working on using for voters overseas so it's definitely something that is being worked on at least for those absentee voters.

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Dr. Precious Hall

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Well again so each state does determine literally the location of polling places and you know, that's the constitution time place and manner restrictions, you know, here's the without going, making my answer too long.

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The unfortunate reality is that t t

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Dr. Precious Hall  
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added up to thousands of dollars so potentially 1.4 million gallons could have had the voting rights restored and reality on the 300,000 were able to pay the fees and fines into registered to vote.

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Thank you all in the audience for your tremendous questions and I want to thank the third on tap committee, including Britain Rodriguez and cross meniscal genuine repairs, Meredith Oda Catherine Fusco and Calum Ingram. Special thanks to Caitlin Earley for helping to plan tonight's panel, and for managing the q and a.

58:41

I want to thank Deborah Modelmog, Lisa McDonald and the College of Liberal Arts, as well as Chris Stancil and Richie Bednarski for their support for tonight's event. Thank you to our partners, Laughing Planet, Nevada humanities and KWNK. And I want to thank our fantastic panelists, of course Precious Hall, Natalie Van Hoozer and Greta De Yong.

59:00

Most of all I want to thank you all in the audience, especially those of you who reached out and

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