

KEY LEGISLATION TO KNOW

- Hatch Act (1939):
 - Limits political activities of civil service employees to run for an elected office
- Freedom of Information Act (1974):
 - Allows public to access non-classified federal documents
- Civil Rights Act of 1964:
 - Bans discrimination in public places based on race, color, national origin or religion.
 - Prohibits employment discrimination of all the above and sex.
 - Requires federal contractors to adopt affirmative-action policies
- Voting Rights Act of 1965:
 - Suspended literacy tests.
 - Empowered federal officials to register voters.
 - Empowered federal officials to ensure citizens could vote and count ballots.
- Air Quality Act (1967):
 - Established emissions standards for cars and factories, power plants, mines, etc.
- National Environmental Policy Act (1969):
 - Requires environmental impact reports before major projects begin
- Clean Air and Water Act (1970):
 - Monitors and controls pollution in the air and lakes, rivers and streams
- Federal Election Campaign Acts 1971-1974:
 - Created the FEC.
 - Required disclosure of contributions or expenditures.
 - Provided limitations on contributions and presidential election expenditures. Provided subsidies for presidential candidates
- Title IX of the Education Act of 1972:
 - Prohibited gender discrimination in federally subsidized education programs

- War Powers Resolution (1973):
 - President could send troops overseas to combat only if:
 - He notified Congress within 48 hours
 - He withdrew troops within 60-90 days if Congress stops funding
 - Congress can pass a resolution to have troops withdrawn at any time

- Budget and Impound Control Act (1974):
 - Established the Congressional Budget Office
 - Extended budget process to three months

- Simpson-Mazzoli Act (1986):
 - Fines for employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens

- Americans with Disabilities (1990):
 - Bans job discrimination against disabled if “reasonable accommodation” can be made
 - Requires access to facilities for the handicapped

- Motor Voter Act (1993):
 - Requires states to register people to vote when applying or renewing a driver’s license

- Patriot Act (2001):
 - Passed after 9/11 permits federal agencies to wire tap under a variety of circumstances
 - Increased federal ability to gather telecommunications, Internet, and financial information of suspected terrorists
 - Permits federal and international agencies to share information on criminal or terrorist investigations

- ~~Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA) 2002:~~
 - ~~Limits national party members from raising and spending soft money~~
 - ~~Defines any broadcast ad aired immediately before an election that depicts a federal candidate and targets that candidates constituency~~
 - (OVERRULED BY CITIZENS UNITED V. FEC 2010)