

Section 1
The Right to Vote

CHAPTER

6

The right to vote in this country has evolved from the privilege of the few to the right of all citizens aged eighteen or above, with few exceptions. Arbitrary reasons for not allowing people to vote, such as race or gender, have been eliminated. Yet ultimately it is still up to the States to determine how to administer elections in a lawful way. Study the cartoon below and answer the following questions.



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Interpreting Political Cartoons

1. What is the meaning of the words on the side of the table?
2. Who is in line? What is the significance of the characters?
3. What point is the cartoonist trying to make?
4. **Forming an Opinion** Every State—except Maine, Utah, and Vermont—denies prisoners the right to vote. Fifteen States keep former felons from voting after they have served their sentences, with ten of them imposing a lifetime voting ban on anyone convicted of a felony. Do you think prisoners or people who have served their sentences should have the right to vote?