

Name: _____ Date: _____

Chapter 13: West Virginia and Reconstruction
Section 2: Political Changes

The Flick Amendment

Directions: In 1866, radical Republicans amended the state constitution to disfranchise all persons who had supported the Confederacy. When the Democrats regained power, they annulled that amendment with the passage of the Flick Amendment. Read the document, then answer the questions below in the space provided.

Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:

The following was proposed as an amendment to the constitution of this State to be substituted for Section 1 of Article III thereof, and to become a part of the said constitution when ratified according to the provisions thereof, namely:

“The male citizens of the State shall be entitled to vote at all elections held within the election districts in which they respectively reside; but no person who is a minor, or of unsound mind, or a pauper, or who is under conviction of treason, felony or bribery in an election, or who has not been a resident of the State for one year, and of the county in which he offers to vote for thirty days next preceding, such offer, shall be permitted to vote while such disability continues.”

Source: Journal of the West Virginia House of Delegates, 1870.

1. Why was Flick’s idea presented as an amendment to the West Virginia constitution? _____

2. According to the provisions of the Flick Amendment, who could vote? _____

3. What groups were singled out as not being able to vote? _____

