Constitutional provisions of the United States guarantees the right to vote for all citizens, without discrimination based on race, color, or national origin. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 further protected the right to vote for African Americans, who had been systematically denied the franchise in the South. This act established federal oversight of elections in states with a history of discrimination, requiring them to obtain federal approval for changes to voting laws or procedures.

However, despite these legal protections, there have been efforts to suppress the voting rights of minority groups, including efforts to restrict access to the polls. For example, states have implemented voter ID laws that have disproportionately affected minority voters, who are more likely to lack the necessary identification.

The impact of these policies on minority voters has been significant. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the poverty rate for African Americans is higher than for the general population, and this has limited their ability to vote. In addition, the imprisonment of large numbers of African Americans has also had a chilling effect on the exercise of the right to vote.

The struggle for voting rights continues, with ongoing efforts to ensure that all citizens have equal access to the ballot box. The courts have played a role in this struggle, with landmark decisions such as the 2013 Supreme Court case of Shelby County v. Holder, which struck down a key provision of the Voting Rights Act.