**Landmark Legislation**

Pendleton Civil Service Act (1883)- abolished patronage [favortism] within the federal government

National Labor Relations Act (1935)- protected the rights of workers by securing collective bargaining

Social Security Act (1935)- established public funding of retirement, pensions, disability, for those who qualify

Hatch Act (1939)- limited most government officials within the executive branch from certain political activities

Taft Hartley Act (1947)- restricted certain activities of labor unions

Civil Rights Act (1964)- prohibited discrimination in schools, public facilities, etc.

Voting Rights Act (1965)- eliminated state laws that placed barriers on African Americans trying to vote

Age Discrimination in Employment Act (1967)- protects applicants over the age of 40 from age discrimination

National Environmental Policy Act “NEPA” (1969)- a law promoting the protection of the environment

Clean Air Act (1970)- designed to control/prevent air pollution

Clean Water Act (1972)- designed to control water pollution

Title IX of the Educational Amendment (1972)- prohibits discrimination based upon gender

Endangered Species Act (1973)- protects endangered animal species

War Powers Resolution (1973)- intended to check [limit] a president’s power during wartime to order attacks

Congressional Budget Impoundment and Control Act (1974)- modified the role of Congress in the budget process

Federal Election Campaign Act (1974)- intended to limit campaign contributions in order to clean up elections

Freedom of Information Act (1967)- generally provides people with access to government records/documents

Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act (1985)- limits spending within the federal budget

Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)- first official law addressing the needs of people with disabilities

Motor Voter Act (1993)- mandates that citizens register to vote when receiving their driver's license

Religious Freedom Restoration Act (1993)- protects the interest of religious groups in America

Communications Decency Act (1996, 97)- first attempt to regulate pornography in America; see [*Reno vs. ACLU*](https://www.oyez.org/cases/1996/96-511)

Welfare Reform Act (1996)- reforms the American welfare system

Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act (2001)- attempted to regulate soft money, PACs, etc.

No Child Left Behind (2001)- educational reform aimed at closing the achievement gap

Patriot Act (2001)- granted the federal government the power of surveillance to prevent terrorism

Affordable Care Act (2010)- Obamacare!

**Resources:**

* [National Archives: Our Documents](https://www.ourdocuments.gov/index.php?flash=false&) (click “search” on right side & search name of legislation)
* [United States Congress](http://www.congress.gov) (click “search” at the top and search the complete name of legislation; once you initially search refine the search on the left side by selecting “congressional record”... has a historical record of all legislation **since** 1973)
* [GovTrack](https://www.govtrack.us/) is a **great** resource for data related to voting records, summaries, etc. If you google the name of your law + roll call, GovTrack gives great breakdowns to determine who supported the law.
* [National Archives: The Center for Legislative Archives](https://www.archives.gov/legislative) (click “research portal” under the title “Researching Congressional Records” and refine your searches as needed)
* Wikipedia… (**ONLY** if you consult the footnotes[[1]](#footnote-1), not what Wikipedia actually says)
* Also, google “Name of Legislation explained” will be helpful too, especially the [Keith Hughes](https://www.youtube.com/user/hughesDV) videos

1. Footnotes are a common way of citing research in social science. Wikipedia often has a lot of quality “.gov, .edu, and .org” resources listed. Follow the links and see where it takes you! [↑](#footnote-ref-1)