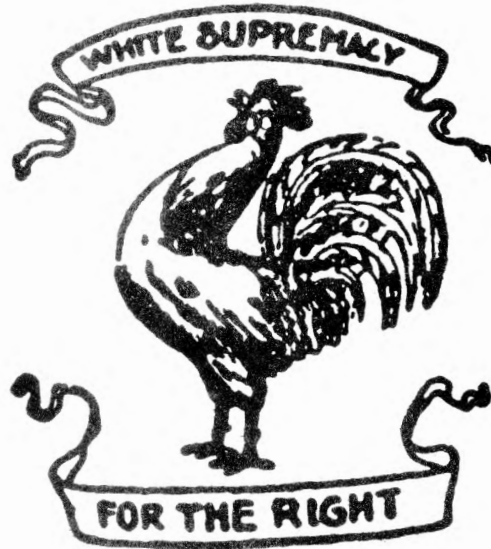


**IS THIS THE PARTY YOU WANT?**

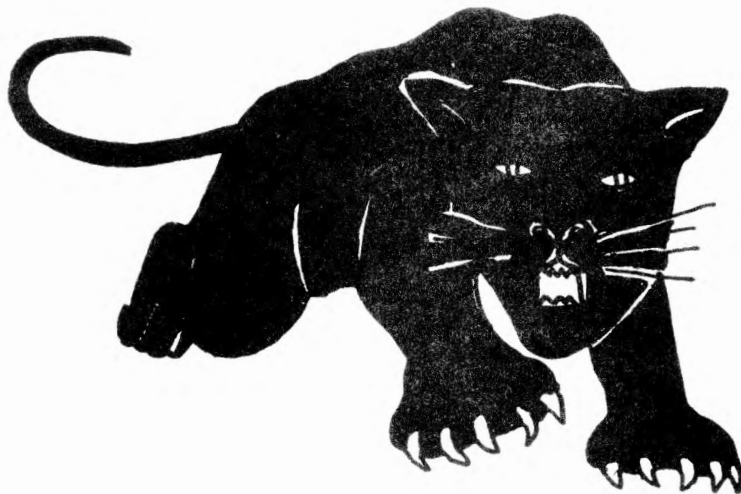


**DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
OF ALABAMA**

or

**IS THIS ?**

**LOWNDES COUNTY FREEDOM ORGANIZATION**



**ONE MAN -- ONE VOTE**

# VOTING

## What is the vote?

VOTING IS THE WAY A CITIZEN CHOOSES PEOPLE TO REPRESENT HIM IN HIS COUNTY, STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. WHEN A CITIZEN VOTES, HE SPEAKS FOR HIMSELF ABOUT THINGS THAT CONCERN HIS OWN WELFARE.

## Why vote?

IF YOU DON'T VOTE, YOU GIVE UP YOUR RIGHT TO DECIDE FOR YOURSELF HOW YOU WANT THINGS TO BE DONE IN YOUR GOVERNMENT. YOUR VOICE NEVER GETS HEARD IN POLITICS IF YOU DON'T VOTE.

## How does voting work?

FIRST, YOU HAVE TO BE REGISTERED. THIS MEANS YOU HAVE TO GO TO HAVE YOUR NAME PUT ON A LIST ALONG WITH OTHERS WHO WANT TO VOTE IN ELECTIONS IN YOUR COUNTY OR STATE. THEN YOU MUST PAY THE POLL TAX.

## Can YOU vote?

YES. ANY PERSON CAN BE A QUALIFIED VOTER IF HE OR SHE IS AT LEAST 21 YEARS OLD, HAS LIVED IN THE STATE AT LEAST ONE YEAR, IN THE COUNTY SIX MONTHS AND IN THE PRECINCT THREE MONTHS.

# POLITICS

## What is politics?

POLITICS IS THE COMING TOGETHER OF PEOPLE TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR LIVES. FOR EXAMPLE, WHO IS GOING TO BE SHERIFF, WHO WILL BE ELECTED TO THE SCHOOL BOARD, WHO WILL BE THE MAYOR OF YOUR CITY. HOWEVER, IN THE PAST, NEGROES HAVE NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO PRACTICE POLITICS. A FEW PEOPLE, MOST OF THEM WHITE, HAVE WORKED IN POLITICS TO BENEFIT THEMSELVES.

## How have we been kept out of politics?

1. CERTAIN LAWS AND PRACTICES HAVE KEPT NEGROES FROM VOTING.
2. NEGROES HAVE BEEN KEPT OUT OF POLITICAL PARTIES.
3. NEGROES HAVE BEEN BEATEN WHEN THEY TRIED TO REGISTER TO VOTE, AND TOLD TIME AND TIME AGAIN THAT POLITICS AND VOTING WERE "WHITE FOLKS' BUSINESS."
4. THEY HAVE TOLD US THAT WE ARE NOT "QUALIFIED" TO PRACTICE POLITICS, THAT WE ARE NOT "QUALIFIED" TO RUN OUR OWN LIVES! EVERYONE KNOWS IF HE WILL THINK ABOUT IT THAT EACH AND EVERY GROWN MAN AND WOMAN IS JUST AS "QUALIFIED" AS ANYONE ELSE TO DECIDE WHAT HE WANTS HIS LIFE TO BE LIKE. THERE MAY BE SOME INFORMATION THAT SOME OF US NEED IN ORDER TO DECIDE HOW TO GO ABOUT MAKING OUR LIVES WHAT WE WANT THEM TO BE, BUT WE CAN GET THAT INFORMATION AND WE CAN LEARN IT JUST AS WELL AS ANYONE ELSE C/
5. THEY HAVE TOLD US THAT NEGROES "JUST CAN'T STICK TOGETHER."

## Why come together?

WHEN YOU COME TOGETHER YOU CAN DETERMINE WHO FROM YOUR OWN COMMUNITY CAN DO THE THING YOU WANT DONE. IF YOU DON'T COME TOGETHER, THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN RUNNING THE SHOW WILL PUT THEIR OWN CANDIDATES UP AND VOTE FOR PROGRAMS THAT WILL BENEFIT THEM ONLY AND YOU WILL HAVE NO SAY AT ALL.

## What can you do when you come together?

IF YOU ARE A QUALIFIED ELECTOR (VOTER), THAT IS, IF YOU HAVE REGISTERED TO VOTE AND PAID THE POLL TAX FOR 2 YEARS, YOU CAN FORM YOUR OWN POLITICAL ORGANIZATION.



# How can people work together in a political organization?

FIRST OF ALL, WE HAVE TO STICK TOGETHER. THEN WE SHOULD DECIDE WHAT ARE OUR COMMON NEEDS. WE CAN DECIDE THIS BY ASKING OURSELVES, "WILL THIS PROGRAM OR THIS CANDIDATE HELP US AND PEOPLE LIKE OURSELVES?" ONCE YOU HAVE A POLITICAL ORGANIZATION YOU CAN GO OUT AND TALK TO YOUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS AND EVEN TO STRANGERS, AND FIND OTHERS WHO ARE WILLING TO WORK WITH YOU.

# Why form a political organization?

WHEN YOU FORM A POLITICAL ORGANIZATION YOU CAN NOMINATE FOR OFFICE CANDIDATES OF YOUR OWN CHOOSING, AND IN THE GENERAL ELECTION, YOU CAN VOTE TO PUT YOUR CANDIDATE INTO OFFICE.

# How do you form a political organization in Lowndes County, Alabama?

1. ALABAMA LAW SAYS YOU CANNOT BE A MEMBER OF A POLITICAL ORGANIZATION IF YOU ARE NOT A QUALIFIED ELECTOR \*\* THAT IS, YOU MUST BE REGISTERED TO VOTE AND MUST HAVE PAID YOUR POLL TAX.

2. ALABAMA LAW SAYS THAT ANY ORGANIZATION OF QUALIFIED ELECTORS CAN NOMINATE CANDIDATES. THE DATE FOR SUCH MEETINGS IS MAY 3, 1966. THE CANDIDATES MUST BE NOMINATED AT THIS MEETING. THE GENERAL PUBLIC MAY ATTEND THIS MASS MEETING, BUT ONLY MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL ORGANIZATION MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING.