15th Amendment

The last amendment of this period was the 15th which Congress passed in 1869. It guaranteed the right to vote for citizens regardless of race. The was the single most important right of citizenship for which abolitionist had fought for four decades, although its explicit exclusion of women produced bitter disappointment among female suffrage supporters and created a permanent split in the abolitionist movement. Taken together, these amendments were nothing short of a "great Constitutional revolution" that broke the connection between citizenship and race and put the national government at the center of struggles for freedom.

At the third Session,

Begun and held at the city of Washington, on Monday, the seventh day of December, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight.

A Resolution

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, (two-thirds of both Houses concurring) that the following article be proposed to the legislature of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States which, when ratified by three-fourths of said legislatures shall be valid as part of the Constitution, namely: Article XV.

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Schuyler Colfax
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Benjamin F. Wade
President of the Senate pro tempore

Edward McPherson
Clerk of the House of Representatives

George C. Gorham
Secretary of the Senate
Fortieth Congress of the United States of America;
At the First Session,
Begun and held at the city of Washington, on Monday, the seventh day of December, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight.

A RESOLUTION
Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, (Two-thirds of both Houses concurring) that the following article be proposed to the legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of said legislatures shall be valid as part of the Constitution, namely:

Article XV.
Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

John C. Calhoun
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

J. C. B. K.
President of the Senate for the time.

J. C. Breck
Chaplain of the Senate.

Geo. B. Vroom
 Clerk of House of Representatives.