

Addison Ramsey

Joleen Steffens

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“Comparison of Venezuela and United States Voting Rights”

Voting rights play an important part in society. They allow people to express their opinion about how their country should be run. Voting rights vary from country to country. This paper will compare and contrast the voting rights between Venezuela and the United States.

The first general election was held in Venezuela on December 14th, 1947. This was the first honest election in Venezuela. This election used compulsory voting which requires citizens to vote in elections, and failure to vote could result in a punishment. The last compulsory election was in 1993. They now use voluntary participation. Voting rights were granted to the citizens of Venezuela in 1999 under the constitution of Venezuela. Women were included in these rights. All long-term resident non-Venezuelans were also granted the right to vote in regional and local elections. Each vote in Venezuela is counted separately using a voting machine. The candidate with the most votes wins.

The first presidential election in the United States was held on December 15, 1788-January 10, 1789. Voting rights in the United States have always been a voluntary basis. Voting rights in the United States changed frequently over time. The first citizens allowed to vote in the United States were property-owning or tax-paying white males in 1789. The 19th amendment

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in 1920 granted women the right to vote. In 1971, the voting age was lowered from 21 to 18 in the 26th amendment. The United States uses an electoral college system to elect the President and Vice President.

In conclusion, there are many differences between the voting rights and systems in Venezuela versus the United States. People in the United States were granted voting rights a lot earlier than in Venezuela. Voting was forced early on in Venezuela, when it was always voluntary in the US. It took women in the US a lot longer to get their voting rights than in Venezuela. The initial voting age in the US was 21 compared to 18 in Venezuela. Individual votes are counted in Venezuela where the United States uses the electoral college to elect the President and Vice President.