



Americans Have Overturned Bad US Supreme Court Decisions 7 Times

1. **The Eleventh Amendment**—overturned, in 1795, a Supreme Court decision from 1793 allowing federal courts to hear cases in which a citizen of one state sues the government of another.
2. **The Thirteenth Amendment**—abolished slavery, after *Dred Scott v. Sandford* (1857) held that slaves could not sue for freedom because they and their children were not citizens.
3. **The Fourteenth Amendment**—grants citizenship to anyone born or naturalized in the United States. This also overrules *Dred Scott's* ruling that slaves were not eligible for citizenship.
4. **The Sixteenth Amendment**—gives Congress the power to levy a direct national income tax, 18 years after 1895's *Pollock v. Farmers' Loan & Trust Co.* held that individual income taxes were unconstitutional.
5. **The Nineteenth Amendment**—guarantees women the right to vote, even though *Minor v. Happersett* (1875) had found that the Fourteenth Amendment did not include women.
6. **The Twenty-fourth Amendment**—bans poll taxes in federal elections. Two Supreme Court rulings, *Breedlove v. Suttles* in 1937 and *Butler v. Thompson* in 1951, had allowed both state and federal governments to put financial conditions on the right to vote (designed to especially discourage African-American voters). The Court later decided, in *Harper v. Virginia Board of Elections* (1966), to ban poll taxes in states.
7. **The Twenty-sixth Amendment**—allows 18-year-olds to vote in federal, state, and local elections. *Oregon v. Mitchell* (1970) had ruled that states could set their own minimum voting age. But with many 18-year-olds dying in the Vietnam war, the 26th amendment was adopted in 1971.

We must do it again now.