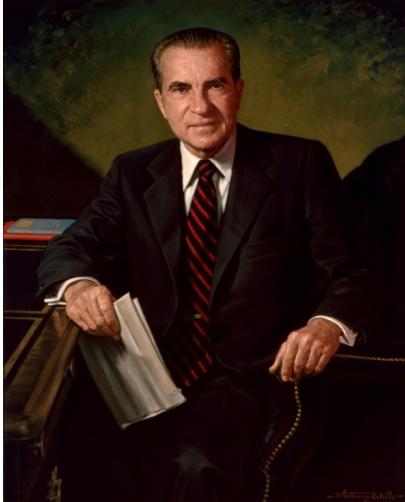


President Richard Nixon



Richard Nixon served as the 37th President of the United States from 1969-1974. Prior to his presidency, he served as a Congressman and Senator from California. He also served as Vice President under President Dwight Eisenhower for eight years and lost his first bid for president in the 1960 election to John F. Kennedy.

As president, Nixon signed several amendments of the Civil Rights Act of 1965 into law, including one that lowered the voting age to 18. Idaho, Oregon, and Texas challenged this amendment, taking it to the Supreme Court in the case *Oregon v. Mitchell* to determine the constitutionality of lowering the voting age. The Court decided that individual states had the right to decide if 18 to 20-year-olds could vote in state level elections.

One year later, in March 1971, Congress voted to create a 26th amendment to the US Constitution that would lower the voting age to 18 nationwide. By July, 38 states had ratified it. On July 5, 1971, Nixon stood in attendance as General Services administrator Robert Kunzig certified the 26th Amendment at a White House ceremony.