



## For Reference: Brief chronology of the Acts

(Terms in ***bold italics*** are explained further in the Glossary, terms underlined have their own articles)

### 1832 'Great' Reform Act

Passed into law in 1832 by the ***Whig*** government. This ***Act*** changed which parts of the country sent MPs to Parliament. It removed '***rotten boroughs***' and gave new industrial towns ***MPs***. It also gave many middle class men the right to vote.

### 1867 Second Reform Act

Passed into law in 1867 by the ***Conservative*** government after much debate. This Act gave more people the right to vote, including some working-class men.

### 1872 Ballot Act

Passed into law in 1872 by the ***Liberal*** government. This ensured that all voting took place in secret, as we do now, so that people would not feel pressured to vote in a particular way (for example, by their landlords or bosses).

### 1883 Corrupt Practices Act

Passed into law in 1883 by the ***Liberal*** government. This Act helped stop ***corruption*** in elections by placing limits on what ***candidates*** could spend on election campaigning and making sure that they published what they had spent.

### 1884 Third Reform Act

Passed into law in 1884 by the ***Liberal*** government. This gave more working class people the vote by making the rules to qualify the same if you lived in the town or the country. However, it still depended on whether or not you owned property or how much rent you paid.

### 1885 Redistribution Act

Passed into law in 1885 by the ***Liberal*** government. This Act changed which communities had ***MPs***, making sure that for the first time ***constituencies*** had roughly the same numbers of voters.