



## *Lillian's Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965*

*Written by Jonah Winter  
Illustrated by Shane W. Evans*

### **Book Description**

*Elementary | Historical Fiction*

Written as a celebration of the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which made it illegal to use literacy tests, poll taxes, or anything else to deny American citizens the right to vote. This picture book follows the journey of 100-year-old Lillian en route to her polling place as she reminisces about the obstacles she and her ancestors faced in order to vote.

### **Discussion Questions**

- Why is Lillian's experience different from others?
- What are some of the things that kept Lillian and her ancestors from voting?
- What are the voting requirements where you live? Do you feel that these requirements are fair?

### **Utah and National Connection**

From the book's author's note: "The sad coda to this story is that in 2013, the Supreme Court struck down a key provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, eliminating federal oversight of states' election processes. Since that decision, many states have created 'voter ID laws,' which require all citizens to present a state-issued photo ID when voting." Utah has a voter ID requirement.



*President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act on August 6, 1965, as Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders look on. Courtesy of LBJ Library, photo by Yoichi Okamoto*