# Majority Rule Day Bahamas



On Friday, January 10, 2014, The Bahamas recognized Majority Rule Day as an official Bahamian holiday. Majority rule means when the majority of the people of a country has a government to represent them. Many events led up to Majority Rule.

**1942** is when the Burma Road Riot happened. This was when Bahamian construction workers learned that American workers were paid more money to carry out the same work they were doing. Bahamians stood up for their rights and demanded equality.

**1949** was the start of the suffrage movement. Ms. Rufus Ingraham, a candidate lost his seat in the 1949 general elections. He said to his wife Mary, that perhaps if women had the right to vote, he could have won his Family Island seat of Crooked Island and Acklins.

**1953** was the birth of the Progressive Liberal Party. This was the first and oldest political organization in The Bahamas.

**1958** was the General strike where taxi cab drivers were denied providing transportation services to the hotels between the airport and hotel for their guests. This effectively shut out the taxi cab drivers from earning a living.

**1962,** Women voted for the first time in history. Ruby Ann Cooper, later Darling, was first to register to vote, and Ms. Ivy Mackey was the first woman to cast her vote.

**1965,** It was on Black Tuesday that Sir Lynden Pindling threw the Mace out of the window of Parliament in protest over the gerrymandering of seats. The Mace is the symbol of authority and power in Parliament, so Sir Lynden said that since power belonged to the people, then the Mace should be outside with the people.




**1967** - Majority Rule Day on January 10. It represented one man, one vote, and for the first time, the people's expressed will was realized. This symbolized the promise of equality, a level playing field, and fair play.

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Directions: After reading the passage, answer the questions.

1. What is the date we celebrate Majority Rule in The Bahamas?

_____

2. Write the correct date next to each event below. [8]

| Events | Dates |
|---|---|
| A. General strike | |
| B. Independence on July 10 | |
| C. Black Tuesday | |
| D. The start of the suffrage movement | |
| E. Majority Rule Day on January 10 | |
| F. Women voted for the first time in history | |
| G. The birth of the Progressive Liberal Party | |
| H. Burma Road Riot | |




