

WOMEN'S VOTE

DELAWARE CENTENNIAL

NWJHM
NATIONAL
WOMEN'S
HISTORY
MUSEUM

1868-1923

General History Timeline National Women's History Museum

1777

- Women lose the right to vote in the state of New York.

1780

- Women lose the right to vote in Massachusetts.

1787

- The U.S. Constitutional Convention places voting qualifications in the hands of the states. Women in all states except New Jersey lose the right to vote.

1790

- The U.S. state of New Jersey grants the vote to "all free inhabitants," including women.

1807

- Women lose the right to vote in New Jersey, the last state to revoke the right.

1838

- Kentucky passes the first statewide woman suffrage law allowing female heads of household in rural areas to vote in elections deciding on taxes and local boards for the new county "common school" system.

1848

- Seneca Falls, New York is the location for the first Women's Rights Convention. Elizabeth Cady Stanton writes "The Declaration of Sentiments" creating the agenda of women's activism for decades to come.

1850

- Worcester, Massachusetts, is the site of the first National Women's Rights Convention. Frederick Douglass, Paulina Wright Davis, Abby Kelley Foster, William Lloyd Garrison, Lucy Stone and Sojourner Truth are in attendance. A strong alliance is formed with the Abolitionist Movement.

1853

- Women delegates, Antoinette Brown and Susan B. Anthony, are not allowed to speak at The World's Temperance Convention held in New York City.

1840

- Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton are barred from attending the World Anti-Slavery Convention held in London. This prompts them to hold a Women's Convention in the US.

1849

- The first state constitution in California extends property rights to women.

1851

- Worcester, Massachusetts is the site of the second National Women's Rights Convention. Participants included Horace Mann, New York Tribune columnist Elizabeth Oaks Smith, and Reverend Harry Ward Beecher, one of the nation's most popular preachers.

- At a women's rights convention in Akron, Ohio, Sojourner Truth, a former slave, delivers her now memorable speech, "Ain't I a woman?"

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- During the Civil War, efforts for the suffrage movement come to a halt. Women put their energies toward the war effort.

1866

– Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony form the American Equal Rights Association, an organization dedicated to the goal of suffrage for all regardless of gender or race.



– The American Equal Rights Association is wrecked by disagreements over the Fourteenth Amendment and the question of whether to support the proposed Fifteenth Amendment which would enfranchise Black American males while avoiding the question of woman suffrage entirely.

– Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony found the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA), a more radical institution, to achieve the vote through a Constitutional amendment as well as push for other woman's rights issues. NWSA was based in New York.

– Lucy Stone, Henry Blackwell, Julia Ward Howe and other more conservative activists form the American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA) to work for woman suffrage through amending individual state constitutions. AWSA was based in Boston.

– Wyoming territory is organized with a woman suffrage provision.

1868

– In Vineland, New Jersey, 172 women cast ballots in a separate box during the presidential election.

– Senator S.C. Pomeroy of Kansas introduces the federal woman's suffrage amendment in Congress.

– Many early suffrage supporters, including Susan B. Anthony, remained single because in the mid-1800s, married women could not own property in their own rights and could not make legal contracts on their own behalf.

– The Fourteenth Amendment is ratified. "Citizens" and "voters" are defined exclusively as male.

– Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Parker Pillsbury publish the first edition of *The Revolution*. This periodical carries the motto "Men, their rights and nothing more; women, their rights and nothing less!"

– Caroline Seymour Severance establishes the New England Woman's Club. The "Mother of Clubs" sparked the club movement which became popular by the late nineteenth century.

1870

– The *Woman's Journal* is founded and edited by Mary Livermore, Lucy Stone, and Henry Blackwell.

1871

- Victoria Woodhull addresses the House Judiciary Committee, arguing women's rights to vote under the fourteenth amendment.
- The Anti-Suffrage Party is founded.

1874

- The Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) is founded by Annie Wittenmyer. With Frances Willard at its head (1876), the WCTU became an important proponent in the fight for woman suffrage. As a result, one of the strongest opponents to women's enfranchisement was the liquor lobby, which feared women might use their vote to prohibit the sale of liquor.

1878

- A Woman Suffrage Amendment is proposed in the U.S. Congress. When the 19th Amendment passes forty-one years later, it is worded exactly the same as this 1878 Amendment.

1872

- Susan B. Anthony casts her ballot for Ulysses S. Grant in the presidential election and is arrested and brought to trial in Rochester, New York. Fifteen other women are arrested for illegally voting. Sojourner Truth appears at a polling booth in Battle Creek, Michigan, demanding a ballot to vote; she is turned away.
- Abigail Scott Duniway convinces Oregon lawmakers to pass laws granting a married woman's rights such as starting and operating her own business, controlling the money she earns, and the right to protect her property if her husband leaves.

1876

- Susan B. Anthony and Matilda Joslyn Gage disrupt the official Centennial program at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, presenting a "Declaration of Rights for Women" to the Vice President.

1887

- The first vote on woman suffrage is taken in the Senate and is defeated.

1890

- NWSA and AWSA merge and the National American Woman Suffrage Association is formed. Stanton is the first president. The Movement focuses efforts on securing suffrage at the state level.
- Wyoming is admitted to the Union with a state constitution granting woman suffrage.
- The American Federation of Labor declares support for woman suffrage.
- The South Dakota campaign for woman suffrage loses.

1892

- Olympia Brown founds the Federal Suffrage Association to campaign for woman's suffrage.

1894

- 600,000 signatures are presented to the New York State Constitutional Convention in a failed effort to bring a woman suffrage amendment to the voters.

1896

- Mary Church Terrell, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, and Frances E.W. Harper among others found the the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs.
- Utah joins the Union with full suffrage for women.
- Idaho adopts woman suffrage.

1890-1925

- The Progressive Era begins. Women from all classes and backgrounds enter public life. Women's roles expand and result in an increasing politicization of women. Consequently the issue of woman suffrage becomes part of mainstream politics.

1893

- Colorado adopts woman suffrage.

1895

- Elizabeth Cady Stanton publishes The Woman's Bible. After its publication, NAWSA moves to distance itself from Stanton because many conservative suffragists considered her to be too radical and, thus, potentially damaging to the suffrage campaign.

1910

- Washington State adopts woman suffrage.
- The Women's Political Union organizes the first suffrage parade in New York City.

1912

- Woman Suffrage is supported for the first time at the national level by a major political party -- Theodore Roosevelt's Bull Moose Party.
- Twenty thousand suffrage supporters join a New York City suffrage parade.
- Oregon, Kansas, and Arizona adopt woman suffrage.

1914

- Nevada and Montana adopt woman suffrage.
- The National Federation of Women's Clubs, which had over two million women members throughout the U.S., formally endorses the suffrage campaign.

1903

- Mary Dreier, Rheta Childe Dorr, Leonora O'Reilly, and others form the Women's Trade Union League of New York, an organization of middle- and working-class women dedicated to unionization for working women and to woman suffrage.

1911

- The National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage (NAOWS) is organized. Led by Mrs. Arthur Dodge, its members included wealthy, influential women, some Catholic clergymen, distillers and brewers, urban political machines, Southern congressmen, and corporate capitalists.
- The elaborate California suffrage campaign succeeds by a small margin.

1913

- Suffragists organized a parade down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC. The parade was the first major suffrage spectacle organized by the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA.)
- The two women then organized the Congressional Union, later known as the National Women's Party (1916). They borrowed strategies from the radical Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) in England.

1916

- Jeannette Rankin of Montana is the first woman elected to the House of Representatives. Woodrow Wilson states that the Democratic Party platform will support suffrage.

1918

- Representative Rankin opens debate on a suffrage amendment in the House. The amendment passes. The amendment fails to win the required two thirds majority in the Senate.
- Michigan, South Dakota, and Oklahoma adopt woman suffrage.
- President Woodrow Wilson states his support for a federal woman suffrage amendment.
- President Wilson addresses the Senate about adopting woman suffrage at the end of World War I.

1920

- **August 26**, Three quarters of the state legislatures ratify the Nineteenth Amendment. American Women win full voting rights.

To learn more about Women's Suffrage visit:
<https://www.2020centennial.org/>
<https://www.womensvote100.org/>

1915

- Mabel Vernon and Sara Bard Field are involved in a transcontinental tour which gathers over a half-million signatures on petitions to Congress.
- Forty thousand march in a NYC suffrage parade. Many women are dressed in white and carry placards with the names of the states they represent.
- Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Massachusetts continue to reject woman suffrage.

1917

- New York women gain suffrage.
- Arkansas women are allowed to vote in primary elections.
- National Woman's Party picketers appear in front of the White House holding two banners, "Mr. President, What Will You Do For Woman Suffrage?" and "How Long Must Women Wait for Liberty?"
- Jeannette Rankin of Montana, the first woman elected to Congress, is formally seated in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Alice Paul, leader of the National Woman's Party, was put in solitary confinement in the mental ward of the prison as a way to "break" her will and to undermine her credibility with the public.
- In June, arrests of the National Woman's party picketers begin on charges of obstructing sidewalk traffic. Subsequent picketers are sentenced to up to six months in jail. In November, the government unconditionally releases the picketers in response to public outcry and an inability to stop National Woman's Party picketers' hunger strike.

1919

- The Senate finally passes the Nineteenth Amendment and the ratification process begins.

