Montana Celebrates 100th Anniversary of Ratifying the 19th Amendment: Women’s Voting Rights

WASHINGTON - August 2 marks the 100th anniversary of Montana’s ratification of the 19th Amendment, which gave American women the right to vote. The Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission is the federal commission tasked with coordinating the nation’s commemorative efforts. Commissioners are available to discuss the important role Montana played in ratification of the 19th Amendment.

The Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission website womensvote100.org includes national events and events throughout the state to commemorate women’s voting rights.

- August-September 2019: Pop-up versions of the National Archives exhibit Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote will be distributed to nine venues across Montana—including schools, libraries, museums, and community sites—to be displayed for the centennial.
- The Her Flag 2020 project will be coming to Helena, MT on September 21: www.herflag.com
- The University of Montana launched an initiative to empower women in honor of the centennial of the 19th Amendment: To learn more click here.
- The Montana state website provides a lesson plan, developed by Billings school librarian Ruth Ferris with partial funding through the National Endowment for the Humanities’ National Digital Newspaper Project, focused on Montana suffragist Hazel Hunkins: https://mhs.mt.gov/education/women/HazelHunkins
- Montana has ongoing projects from the 2014 celebration of Montana’s 100th anniversary of women’s right to vote, including the Montana Women’s History website (http://montanawomenshistory.org/) and its companion book Beyond Schoolmarms and Madams

The commission includes 14 dynamic leaders spanning a diverse professional and ideological landscape.

Chairwoman Kay Coles James - President, The Heritage Foundation

Kay Coles James is President of The Heritage Foundation where she has served on the board of trustees for 13 years. Mrs. James' commitment to the principles of free enterprise and individual freedom are evidenced in her career of public service that spans three decades. She has served
as director of the Office of Personnel Management, Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Services and Dean of the Robertson School of Government at Regent University.

**Vice Chairwoman Former Senator Barbara Mikulski**

Former Senator Barbara Mikulski’s political career spans over four decades. She proudly served the people of Maryland in the U.S. Congress for forty years, becoming the longest-serving woman in U.S. Congressional history in the process. Her first elected office was to the City Council of Baltimore in 1971. She then served in the U.S. House of Representatives for a decade prior to her election to the U.S. Senate in 1986, when she became the first Democratic woman elected to the U.S. Senate in her own right.

**Jovita Carranza** - Treasurer, United States of America  
**Susan Combs** - Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, U.S. Department of the Interior  
**Marjorie Dannenfelser** - President, Susan B. Anthony List  
**Heather Higgins** - CEO, Independent Women's Voice  
**Karen Hill** - President and CEO, Harriet Tubman Home  
**Julissa Marenco** - Assistant Secretary for Communications and External Affairs, Smithsonian  
**Nicola Miner** - Philanthropist and Professor, College of San Mateo  
**Cleta Mitchell** - Partner, Foley & Lardner LLP  
**Penny Nance** - President, Concerned Women for America  
**Jennifer Siebel Newsom** - Documentary Filmmaker and First Partner of California  
**Colleen J. Shogan** - Assistant Deputy Librarian for Collections and Services Library of Congress  
**Debra Steidel Wall** - Deputy Archivist, The National Archives  
**Rebecca Kleefisch** - Executive Director, Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission

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