

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

CONNECTICUT

RATIFIED THE 19TH AMENDMENT ON SEPT. 14, 1920



1920-2020

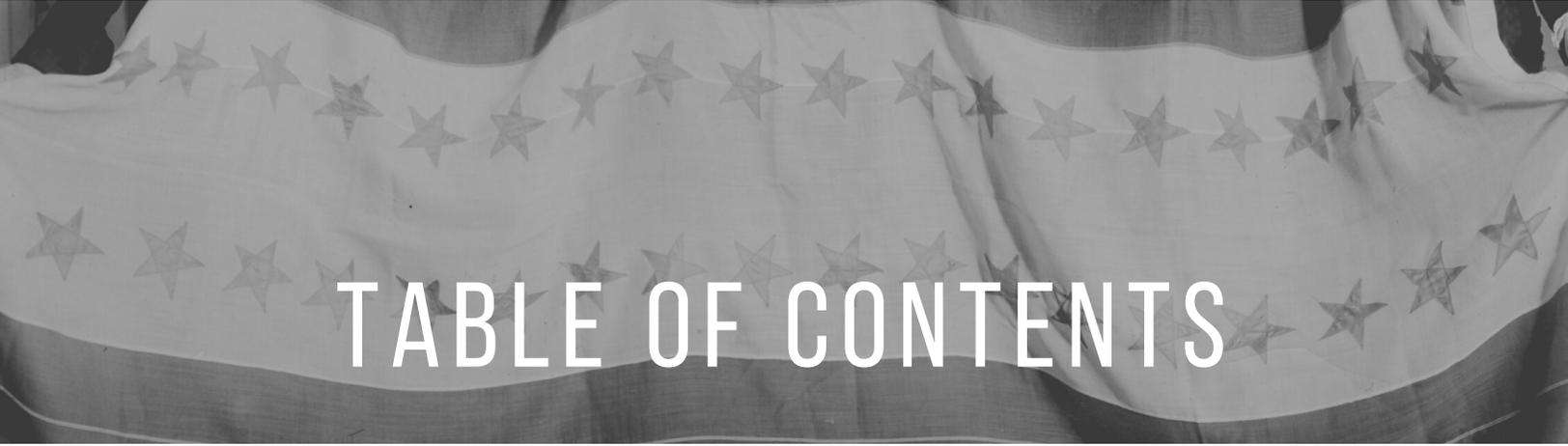


TABLE OF CONTENTS

About | p2

Learn the History | p3

**Commemorate Across
Your State | p5**

Get Inspired | p6

Plan an Event | p7

Join the Conversation | p9

Contact | p10

"THE RIGHT OF
CITIZENS OF THE
UNITED STATES TO
VOTE SHALL NOT BE
DENIED OR ABRIDGED
BY THE UNITED
STATES OR BY ANY
STATE ON ACCOUNT
OF SEX."

The 19th Amendment

ABOUT

The Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission (WSCC) was formed by Congress to commemorate the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote and the 19th Amendment.

Throughout 2020, the United States is celebrating the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which secured women's constitutional right to vote. Today, more than 68 million American women vote in elections because of the courageous suffragists who never gave up the fight for equality. This centennial is an unparalleled opportunity to elevate women's history and to commemorate a milestone of American democracy.

Use this toolkit as your guide to commemorating the centennial in your state and community.



ALICE PAUL IN FRONT OF THE NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, D.C., 1920.

LEARN THE HISTORY

THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

Suffragists began their organized fight for women's equality in 1848 when they demanded the right to vote during the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York. For the next 72 years, women leaders lobbied, marched, picketed, and protested for the right to the ballot. The U.S. House of Representatives finally approved the "Susan B. Anthony Amendment," which guaranteed women the right to vote, on May 21, 1919. The U.S. Senate followed two weeks later and voted to approve the 19th Amendment on June 4, 1919. The 19th Amendment then went to the states, where it had to be ratified by three-fourths of the then 48 states to be added to the Constitution. Tennessee became the 36th and final state needed to ratify the 19th Amendment on August 18, 1920. On August 26, 1920, the U.S. Secretary of State issued a proclamation declaring the 19th Amendment ratified and officially part of the U.S. Constitution. Today, August 26th is celebrated annually as Women's Equality Day.

CONNECTICUT QUICK FACTS

- Connecticut ratified the 19th Amendment on September 14, 1920.
- By the time Connecticut representatives met to vote on ratifying the 19th Amendment in September 1920, Tennessee had already become the 36th and final state needed to ratify. Connecticut became the 37th, and was the first state to ratify after the 19th Amendment had already been officially added to the U.S. Constitution.
- Connecticut was home to prominent suffragists such as Frances Ellen Burr, Isabella Beecher Hooker, Katharine Houghton Hepburn, and Mary Townsend Seymour.
- The Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association was one of the leading suffrage organizations in the state.



SUFFRAGIST AND
LAWYER INEZ
MILHOLLAND AT A
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
PARADE IN NEW YORK
CITY, MAY 3, 1913.

LEARN THE HISTORY

ORIGINAL SOURCE: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

CONNECTICUT AND THE 19TH AMENDMENT

RATIFICATION DATE: SEPT. 14, 1920

Women first organized and collectively fought for suffrage at the national level in July of 1848. Suffragists such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott convened a meeting of over 300 people in Seneca Falls, New York. In the following decades, women marched, protested, lobbied, and even went to jail. By the 1870s, women pressured Congress to vote on an amendment that would recognize their suffrage rights. This amendment was sometimes known as the Susan B. Anthony amendment and became the 19th Amendment.

The amendment reads:

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

Around this time, women in Connecticut, as in much of New England, became more active in the fight for suffrage rights. In 1869, Frances Ellen Burr and Isabella Beecher Hooker (the half-sister of Harriett Beecher Stowe) established the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association (CWSA). This group advocated for women's suffrage in local elections and eventually worked with national leaders to organize protests and demonstrations.

Not all Connecticut women and men were in favor of women's suffrage. By the early 1900s, the Connecticut Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage had local branches all across the state. Members of the organization thought voting put an unnecessary burden on women. Like many other states in America, Connecticut was split on the issue of women's suffrage.

But Connecticut suffragists did not give up. In 1918, women protested in the cities of Hartford and Simsbury. They wrote a telegram to President Woodrow Wilson asking him to support women's suffrage. He publically endorsed a woman's right to vote later that year.

After decades of arguments for and against

women's suffrage, Congress finally voted in favor of the 19th Amendment in June 1919. After Congress passed the 19th Amendment, at least 36 states needed to vote in favor of it for it to become law. This process is called ratification. By August of 1920, 36 states ratified the 19th Amendment, ensuring that all across the country, the right to vote could not be denied based on sex.

On August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment. Representatives from Connecticut were not scheduled to vote on the amendment until September. By the time Connecticut representatives met for the vote, the 19th amendment was officially part of the US Constitution, recognizing women's suffrage rights. Connecticut was not one of the original 36 states to ratify the amendment, but it did become the 37 state to ratify it on September 14, 1920.

Connecticut Places of Women's Suffrage: Kimberly Mansion

Julia and Abby Smith were both teachers and abolitionists. They were born and raised at Kimberly Mansion in Connecticut. After their father died, they inherited the family farm. The town tax collector raised the tax rate for the Kimberly sisters, but he did not raise taxes for the men in town. Julia and Abby claimed that this was unfair, and they challenged the tax collector in court. The sisters argued that it was a case of "taxation without representation." The government did not allow women to vote and therefore women could not represent their own interests. Julia and Abby did not win women the right to vote, but they did bring national attention to the struggle for women's suffrage rights. Kimberly Mansion is a National Historic Landmark.

Source:

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/connecticut-and-the-19th-amendment.htm>

COMMEMORATE ACROSS YOUR STATE

-  **Issue Proclamations or Executive Orders:** Encourage your Governor and Mayors across the state to issue a commemorative proclamation or executive order to recognize your state's or community's role in the women's suffrage movement, designate August 26, 2020 as Women's Equality Day, or designate 2020 as "The Year of Connecticut Women." Find samples and templates at womensvote100.org/resolutionsandorders.
-  **Pass Resolutions:** Encourage your state legislature, city councils, and town councils to pass commemorative resolutions to recognize your state's or community's role in the women's suffrage movement, designate August 26, 2020 as your Women's Equality Day, or reaffirm your state's or community's commitment to the 19th Amendment and to uplifting women's voices. Find samples and templates at womensvote100.org/resolutionsandorders.
-  **Join the Forward Into Light Campaign:** On August 26, 2020, buildings and landmarks across the country will light up in purple and gold to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and women's right to vote. This nationwide celebration of the centennial is named for the historical suffrage slogan, "Forward through the Darkness, Forward into Light." Work with leaders, organizations, and communities in your state to celebrate women's right to vote in the official suffrage colors of purple and gold, from the State Capitol to skyscrapers to bridges to city halls.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CONNECTICUT

- **Connecticut Secretary of State Denise W. Merrill launched the Connecticut Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission in September 2018. The Connecticut commission is dedicated to celebrating the centennial in the state and amplifying the stories of Connecticut suffragists.**
- **The Connecticut Bar Association is holding a 19th Amendment Centennial Scavenger Hunt from September 2019 through July 2020.**

GET INSPIRED

COMING UP IN 2020



FORWARD INTO LIGHT



PROJECT 19 SKYDIVERS



VOTES FOR WOMEN TRAIL



CENTENNIAL RIDE

Forward Into Light: As part of the WSCC's Forward Into Light campaign, states across the country will light their buildings and landmarks in purple and gold on August 26, 2020, the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Some states started commemorating the centennial with lightings in 2019, including Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Virginia. Are you in for August 26, 2020? Contact the WSCC for more information.

Project 19: Led by the Women's Skydiving Network (WSN), Project 19 is a planned jump of 100 women skydivers in July 2020 outside of Chicago in celebration of the centennial of women's right to vote. The WSN also has a sponsored all-women Professional Demonstration Team, which is scheduling jumps (at no charge!) during 19th Amendment celebrations around the country throughout 2020. For more information, contact Team Captain Melanie Curtis at mel@melaniecurtis.com.

Votes for Women Trail: The National Votes for Women Trail is a project led by the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites to place historic markers at locations relevant to the history of the women's suffrage movement in all 50 states. The WSCC is partnering with the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites to complete the Trail in 2020. Visit womensvote100.org/votes-for-women-trail to follow the Trail and find historic sites in your state.

Centennial Ride: In honor of the centennial of the 19th Amendment, hundreds of women and men will participate in a cross-country motorcycle tour in 2020. Riders will leave from ten different starting cities around the country, and more than 1,000 riders will converge on Washington, D.C. on August 26, 2020. Learn more at www.centennialride.com.

PLAN AN EVENT



"WE KNOCK AT THE BAR OF JUSTICE, ASKING AN EQUAL CHANCE."

-Mary Church Terrell, suffragist & founder of the National Association of Colored Women, 1898

- **What:** Hold a press conference, reception, or public program commemorating the centennial of the 19th Amendment and women's right to vote. Keep reading for examples and ideas!
- **Where:** Host an event at your State Capitol or City Hall, or at a historic site, museum, school, university, or community center. Find a list of historic sites and places in Connecticut along the National Votes for Women Trail at womensvote100.org/get-involved.
- **When:** Events celebrating the centennial can be held anytime throughout 2020, but particularly important dates include Black History Month (February), Women's History Month (March), and June-August 2020, building up to the official centennial date on August 26, 2020.
- **Who:** Invite members of your community to your event, as well as state or local leaders such as your Governor, First Lady/First Partner, Members of Congress, State Legislators, Mayor, or local Council Members. Invite a guest speaker, such as a women's suffrage historian, and invite historic performers to portray famous women of history. Find a list of historians and performers at womensvote100.org/get-involved.
- **Additional Details:** The suffragists wore white dresses to display their unity, and the yellow rose became a symbol of the movement's ultimate victory. At your commemorative event, decorate the room with yellow roses, suggest your guests dress in white attire, and offer replica Votes for Women pins, which can be provided by the WSCC.

Relevant Organizations in Your State:

- Connecticut Conference of Municipalities: ccm-ct.org
- Connecticut Historical Society: chs.org
- Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame: cwhf.org
- Connecticut Women's Heritage Trail: cwhf.org
- Connecticut Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission: votesforwomenct.com
- Museum of Connecticut History: museumofcthistory.org
- Permanent Commission on the Status of Women in Connecticut: pcswct.org

PLAN AN EVENT



"MEN, THEIR RIGHTS, AND NOTHING MORE; WOMEN, THEIR RIGHTS, AND NOTHING LESS."
Susan B. Anthony & Elizabeth Cady Stanton, c.1868

MORE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IDEAS

Street Renaming: Through your Mayor's office, change the name of a street in your city in honor of a local suffragist.

Suffrage Exhibits: Work with your local historical society to create an exhibit about your community's suffrage story.

Purple and Gold Fireworks: At your State Fair, County Fair, or community gathering, feature a display of purple and gold fireworks.

Musical Performances: Hold a concert featuring female composers or original music from the suffrage movement, which can be found online through the Library of Congress's searchable archives.

Film Screenings: Host screenings of films focused on the suffrage movement or women's empowerment, such as *Iron Jawed Angels*, *Suffragette*, or *A League of Their Own*.

Suffrage Floats: Include a suffrage-themed float in state and local parades.

Community Murals: Hire a local artist to create a suffrage-themed mural in your community that tells the story of the suffrage movement in your state.

Suffrage Centennial Races: Take the lead from the National Park Service's Race to Ratification and hold a suffrage-themed 5K or 10k in summer 2020.

Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon: Work with Wikipedia to plan an "Edit-a-Thon" focused on your state and local suffrage history.

Suffrage Essay or Art Contests: Hold an essay or art contest for students on topics related to your state and local suffrage history.

Suffrage Book Club: Form a book club with a locally owned bookstore to read and discuss books about the women's suffrage movement.

Plantings of Yellow Roses: Plant yellow roses in your home, school, or community gardens and share photos on social media using the hashtags #WomensVote100, #SuffrageSisters, and #SuffraGents.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

STAY ENGAGED

- Follow @WomensVote100 on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
- Check out the “Suffrage Sisters” YouTube channel
- Subscribe to our e-newsletter at womensvote100.org
- Keep an eye on our Connecticut page at womensvote100.org/connecticut

FIND RESOURCES

- womensvote100.org/learn
- womensvote100.org/news
- womensvote100.org/states

Use these hashtags on social media to engage with your community during this historic moment:

#WomensVote100
#SuffrageSisters
#SuffraGents

SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Instagram



Facebook



THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION



QUESTIONS?

CONTACT KIMBERLY WALLNER,
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS
202-707-0106
KIMBERLY@WOMENSVOTE100.ORG