

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

---

# MISSOURI

---

RATIFIED THE 19TH AMENDMENT ON JULY 4, 1919

1920  2020  
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE  
CENTENNIAL  
COMMISSION



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.

## MISSOURI QUICK FACTS

- Missouri ratified the 19th Amendment on July 3, 1919.
- St. Louis hosted a National Woman Suffrage Convention in 1869.
- In 1874, Missouri woman Virginia Minor was the plaintiff in *Minor v. Happersett*, a Supreme Court case in which Minor argued unsuccessfully that the 14th Amendment to the Constitution granted women the right to vote.
- Suffragists like Virginia Minor, Victoria Clay Haley, Rebecca Harrison, Bertha Walmsley, Harriet U. Andrews, and Edna Gellhorn were active in Missouri.
- Suffrage organizations active in Missouri included the St. Louis Equal Suffrage League and the Woman Suffrage Association of Missouri.



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

## MISSOURI AND THE 19TH AMENDMENT

## RATIFICATION DATE: JULY 4, 1919

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."*

Although progress on the federal amendment stalled, women also campaigned for changes to state suffrage requirements to win the vote. Missouri women began forming suffrage organizations in 1867. Between 1867 and 1901, suffragists petitioned for a state constitutional amendment enfranchising women eighteen times. Only eight of those petitions came to a vote in the Missouri legislature, including the first one in 1867. Each time, the Missouri lawmakers voted against woman suffrage.

In October 1869, St. Louis hosted a National Woman Suffrage Convention. At the meeting, Missourians Francis and Virginia Minor introduced the idea that the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution already protected women's right to vote. They argued that since the language of the amendment defined citizenship and required due process and equal protection for all citizens under the law, it was unconstitutional to exclude women citizens from voting. Support for the Minors' argument grew among suffragists, launching a strategy known as the "new departure" in which women showed up at their polling places demanding that they be allowed to vote.

Virginia Minor attempted to register to vote on October 15, 1872 with her registrar's office. When she was turned away, the Minors sued. After losing in the state courts, their case made it to the Supreme Court as *Minor v Happersett*. The justices ruled unanimously against the Minors in

1874. In the decision, Chief Justice Morrison Waite declared that "the Constitution of the United States does not confer the right of suffrage upon anyone" and that voting is not one of the "privileges and immunities" of citizenship. Thereafter, many suffragists decided that the only way to win the vote would be to push for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution forbidding the denial of the right to vote based on sex. Virginia Minor remained active in the fight for suffrage until her death in 1894.

In the twentieth century, Missouri women continued to fight for the right to vote on both the state and the national level. In 1916, thousands of women wearing white and carrying gold parasols lined the streets of St. Louis during the Democratic National Convention in a silent stare-down of the delegates as they walked from their hotels to the convention. They called their demonstration a "walkless, talkless parade" meant to illustrate how women had been silenced by the continued denial of the vote. The protest, which became known as the Golden Lane, was organized by Edna Gellhorn, one of the next generation of Missouri suffrage leaders. The suffragists won a small victory in March 1919 when the legislature passed a measure for limited suffrage, allowing women to vote for president only.

Three months later, after decades of arguments for and against women's suffrage, Congress finally passed the federal suffrage amendment on June 4, 1919. After Congress approved the 19th Amendment, at least 36 states needed to vote in favor of it for it to become part of the U.S. Constitution. This process is called ratification.

On July 3, 1919, Missouri ratified the Nineteenth Amendment. By August of 1920, 36 states had ratified the amendment, ensuring that citizens could not be denied the right to vote based on sex.

Source:  
<https://www.nps.gov/articles/missouri-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 Missouri Women." Find samples and templates at [womensvote100.org/resolutionsandorders](https://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 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](https://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 MISSOURI

- In July 2019, members of the League of Women Voters of Missouri held a celebration in the State Capitol in honor of the 100th anniversary of the state's ratification of the 19th Amendment. Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft presented a proclamation, signed by Governor Mike Parson, to the League in honor of the anniversary and women's right to vote.

# 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](mailto: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](http://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. between August 20-23, 2020. Learn more at [www.centennialride.com](http://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 Missouri along the National Votes for Women Trail at [womensvote100.org/get-involved](http://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](http://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:

- Missouri Historical Society: [mohistory.org/society](http://mohistory.org/society)
- Missouri History Museum: [mohistory.org/museum](http://mohistory.org/museum)
- Missouri Municipal League: [mocities.site-ym.com](http://mocities.site-ym.com)
- Missouri State Archives: [sos.mo.gov/archives](http://sos.mo.gov/archives)
- Missouri State Historic Preservation Office: [dnr.mo.gov/shpo](http://dnr.mo.gov/shpo)

# 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](http://womensvote100.org)
- Keep an eye on our Missouri page at [womensvote100.org/missouri](http://womensvote100.org/missouri)

## FIND RESOURCES

- [womensvote100.org/learn](http://womensvote100.org/learn)
- [womensvote100.org/news](http://womensvote100.org/news)
- [womensvote100.org/states](http://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

---

1920-2020

10