

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

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# NORTH DAKOTA

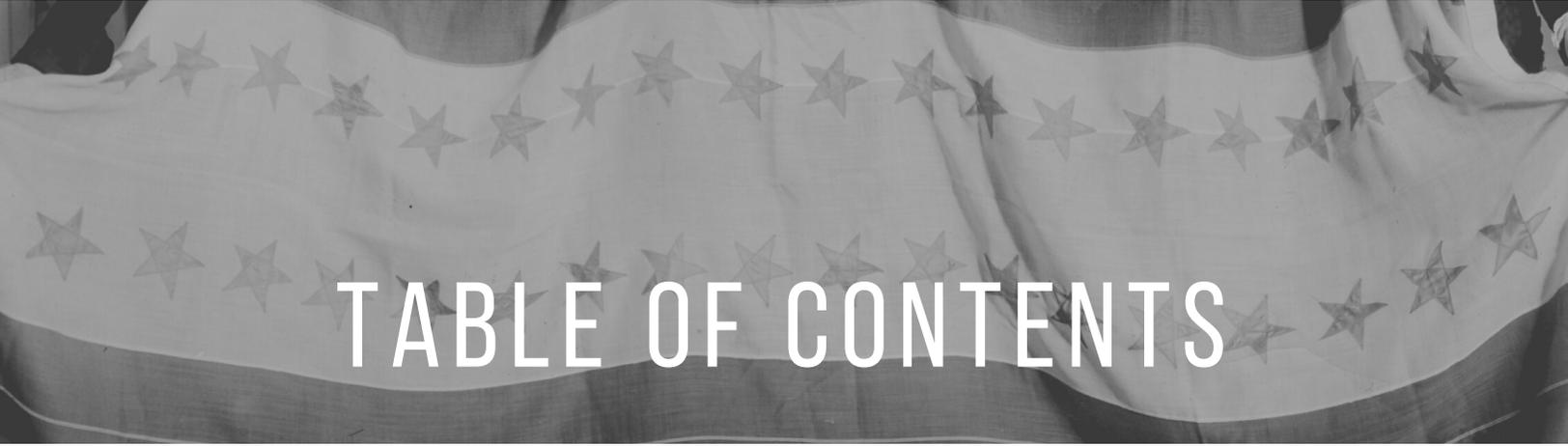
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RATIFIED THE 19TH AMENDMENT ON DEC. 1, 1919

1920  2020  
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE  
CENTENNIAL  
COMMISSION



1920-2020



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"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

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# 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.

## NORTH DAKOTA QUICK FACTS

- North Dakota ratified the 19th Amendment on December 1, 1919.
- Although the women's rights movement was born in New England, women first won suffrage victories in the West.
- In the Dakota Territory, women were able to vote in school elections beginning in 1883.
- Suffrage organizations such as the Grand Forks Equal Suffrage Association, North Dakota's Woman's Christian Temperance Union, North Dakota Women's Suffrage Association, Woman Suffrage League of Bismarck, and Fargo Votes for Women League were active in North Dakota.
- Suffragists such as Elizabeth Preston Anderson, Grace Clendenning, Clara L. Darrow, Alice Nelson, Flora Blackman Naylor, and Kate Selby Wilder were active in North Dakota.



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

# NORTH DAKOTA AND THE 19TH AMENDMENT

## RATIFICATION DATE: DECEMBER 1, 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 the women's rights movement was born in New England, women first won suffrage victories in the West. In the Dakota Territory, women were able to vote in school elections beginning in 1883. Legislation that would have provided full suffrage to women lost by one vote in 1875. A similar bill passed the territorial legislature in 1885 but was vetoed by the territorial governor, Gilbert Pierce. If Governor Pierce had not struck down the law, women from the Dakota Territory would have joined those in the Wyoming and Utah territories in winning voting rights on the same terms as men.

When North Dakota became a state in 1889, the state constitution continued to protect women's right to vote in school elections but did not expand their enfranchisement. A few determined women lobbied for full suffrage throughout the rest of the nineteenth century. Linda Slaughter, who with her husband Dr. Frank Slaughter helped to establish the town of Bismark, was a vocal advocate for both women and Native Americans. Elizabeth Preston Anderson, who was President of the North Dakota chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) campaigned year after year for the passage of suffrage measures through the legislature. Because of Anderson's

record-keeping, we have evidence of a defeat for woman suffrage in North Dakota that was nearly a victory. In 1893, a bill enacting full voting rights for women passed the North Dakota legislature and it looked like the governor would sign it. However, the speaker of the North Dakota House refused to sign the measure. Then the bill was "lost" on its way to the governor. The House expunged the record as if the proceedings never happened.

North Dakota women were also on the forefront of organizing for woman suffrage. Dr. Cora Smith Eaton formed the Grand Forks Equal Suffrage Association in the 1880s. They held a suffrage convention in November 1895, but soon after Dr. Eaton moved to Washington State and worked for women's rights there. An accomplished mountaineer, she planted a Votes for Women banner near the summit of Mount Rainier in 1909. The Votes for Women League formed in Fargo in 1912, a year after the North Dakota legislature amended voting laws to define voters as "male persons," which was a blow to the woman suffrage movement.

North Dakota suffragists continued to push for expanded voting rights. In 1913, a woman suffrage bill passed the legislature but then was put to the male voters of the state and defeated in 1914. Three years later, there was finally a small victory when North Dakota lawmakers passed limited suffrage. The bill allowed women to vote for presidential electors and for some municipal positions. This measure was not put to the voters and was signed into law by the governor.

This incremental progress was frustrating to many suffragists who grew disillusioned with working for the right to vote on the state level. Women for North Dakota joined the fight for a federal amendment enfranchising women. Some participated in more confrontational demonstrations such as the National Woman's Party pickets of the White House demanding that President

## LEARN THE HISTORY

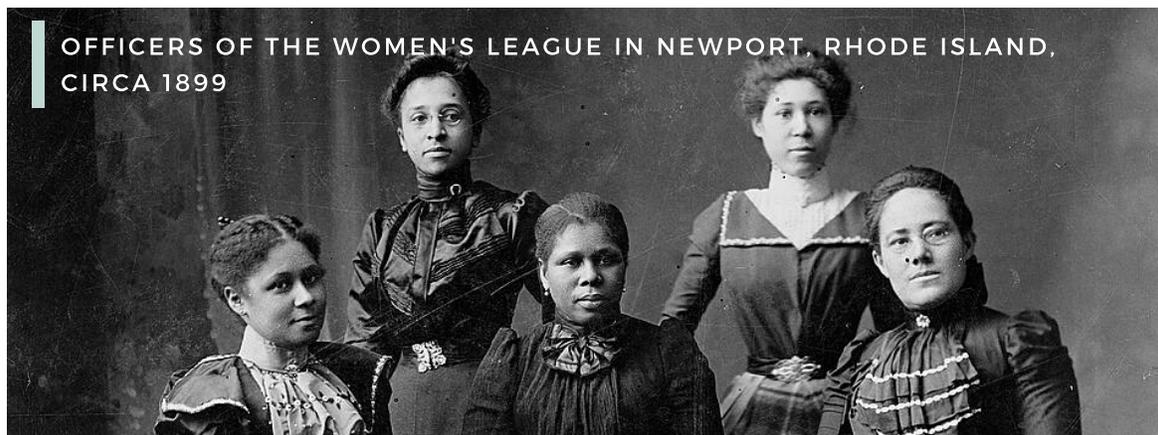
Wilson support a constitutional amendment enfranchising women. Beulah Abingdon of Fargo, press secretary for the NWP, was sometimes called "The Prettiest Picket." She was arrested during a protest in August 1917.

After decades of arguments across the country for and against women's suffrage, Congress finally approved the 19th Amendment in June 1919. After Congress passed it, at least 36 states needed to vote in favor of the amendment for it to become part of the U.S. Constitution. This process is called ratification. On December 1, 1919, North Dakota voted to ratify the 19th Amendment. By August of 1920, 36 states (including North Dakota) ratified the amendment, ensuring that all across the country, the right to vote could not be denied based on sex.

### **North Dakota Places of Women's Suffrage: North Dakota Executive Mansion**

Built in 1884, the North Dakota Executive Mansion was the home of the governor. Twenty different governors lived in the house from 1893 up to 1960. Lynn Frazier served as the governor from 1917 to 1921 and lived in the house with his wife and children. In 1919, he ratified the 19th Amendment for the state of North Dakota, recognizing women's suffrage rights. The house is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is open for tours by appointment.

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



OFFICERS OF THE WOMEN'S LEAGUE IN NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, CIRCA 1899

# 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 North Dakota 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 NORTH DAKOTA

- **Governor Doug Burgum issued a proclamation declaring 2019 to 2020 the Centennial Celebration of Women's Suffrage in the State of North Dakota.**
- **The North Dakota Woman Suffrage Centennial Committee, an affiliate of the State Historical Society of North Dakota, is coordinating woman suffrage centennial activities throughout the state.**

# 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 North Dakota 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:

- North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum: [statemuseum.nd.gov](http://statemuseum.nd.gov)
- North Dakota League of Cities: [ndlc.org](http://ndlc.org)
- North Dakota Woman Suffrage Centennial Committee: [facebook.com/NDWSCC/](https://facebook.com/NDWSCC/)
- State Historical Society of North Dakota: [history.nd.gov](http://history.nd.gov)

# 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 North Dakota page at [womensvote100.org/northdakota](http://womensvote100.org/northdakota)

## 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

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## WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION



# QUESTIONS?

CONTACT KIMBERLY WALLNER,  
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