

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

SOUTH DAKOTA

RATIFIED THE 19TH AMENDMENT ON DEC. 4, 1919

1920  2020
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
CENTENNIAL
COMMISSION



1920-2020

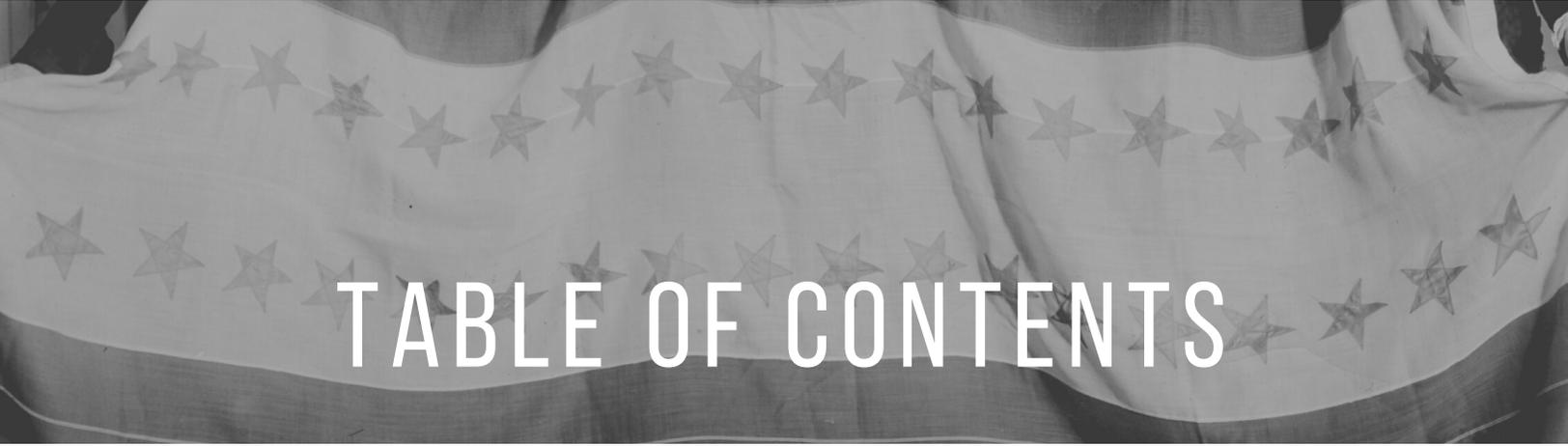


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"THE RIGHT OF
CITIZENS OF THE
UNITED STATES TO
VOTE SHALL NOT BE
DENIED OR ABRIDGED
BY THE UNITED
STATES OR BY ANY
STATE ON ACCOUNT
OF SEX."

The 19th Amendment

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.

SOUTH DAKOTA QUICK FACTS

- South Dakota ratified the 19th Amendment on December 4, 1919.
- In the Dakota Territory, women were able to vote in school elections beginning in 1883.
- Once South Dakota became a state, several amendments to the state constitution that would have given women the right to vote were rejected between 1890 and 1916.
- In 1918, women in South Dakota won their right to vote through the state's Citizenship Amendment.
- Suffragists such as Emma Smith Devoe, Congressman John Pickler, and Mary Shields Pyle were active in South Dakota. National suffrage leaders such as Susan B. Anthony, Anna Howard Shaw, and Carrie Chapman Catt also campaigned in the state.
- Suffrage organizations in South Dakota included the South Dakota Equal Suffrage Association and the South Dakota Universal Franchise League.



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

SOUTH DAKOTA AND THE 19TH AMENDMENT**RATIFICATION DATE: DECEMBER 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 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 South Dakota became a state in 1889, the new state constitution included the word "male" in the section designating voting eligibility. However, it also called for the new state legislature to send a proposed state constitutional amendment to the voters in 1890 which would extend voting eligibility to women. Susan B. Anthony embarked on a speaking tour of South Dakota to campaign for the amendment and set up an office there. Many other national suffrage leaders like Anna Howard Shaw and Carrie Chapman Catt toured the state as well. But the amendment was defeated by the voters. Similar amendments in 1895 and 1898 did not pass the legislature.

Many prominent men and women of South Dakota supported woman suffrage. Congressman John Pickler, who as a member of the territorial legislature introduced a woman suffrage bill in 1885, was nicknamed "Petticoats Pickler" because of his work along with his wife Alice for the vote. The Picklers also worked for the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) and the two causes were often discussed together. Emma Smith Devoe was a dedicated advocate for both temperance and woman suffrage. She and her husband John were founders of the South Dakota Equal Suffrage Association in 1890. Emma set up local chapters all over the state. She and John moved away shortly after the defeat of the 1890 measure, but Emma continued to fight for suffrage in several other states and sent letters of encouragement back to the

suffragists in South Dakota during their continued campaigns.

Suffragists often cited the state's motto, "Under God the People Rule" to which they would add "Women Are People" when arguing for women's enfranchisement. Campaigns were difficult because South Dakota was sparsely populated; traveling around for speaking and education tours could be physically demanding. Fundraising was always a challenge. Organizing for the vote waned as one measure after another went down in defeat.

In the twentieth century, there was a resurgence of suffrage activism in South Dakota. Mary Shields "Mamie" Pyle organized the South Dakota Universal Franchise League in 1911 after another woman suffrage referendum was voted down in November 1910. Pyle, who had never worked for temperance, distanced the suffragists from the WCTU, believing that combining the two issues had hurt the suffrage movement in the past. This strategy would help neutralize the arguments of influential anti-suffrage organizers in the state who were tied to the liquor industry. The League started a newspaper called the South Dakota Messenger, edited by Ruth B. Hipple, to spread the word about women's rights. The Messenger could reach people in remote areas that were difficult for speakers to visit. Although a suffrage amendment was again defeated in 1914, the election results suggested that support for women's right to vote was growing.

The 1916 ballot in South Dakota included both prohibition and woman suffrage amendments. Emma Smith Devoe returned to the state to campaign. The prohibition amendment passed; the woman suffrage amendment did not. Two years later, another state constitutional amendment passed the legislature and was sent to the voters. This one, called the Citizenship Amendment, revised voting eligibility in the state. It added the requirement of U.S. citizenship (which had not been required before) but removed the word "male." When the amendment passed in November 1918, women in South Dakota were finally eligible to vote under the same terms as men.

After decades of arguments for and against women's suffrage across the country, Congress finally passed the 19th Amendment in June 1919. After Congress approved the 19th Amendment, at least 36 states needed to vote in favor of it for it to become law. On December 4, 1919, South Dakota voted to ratify the 19th Amendment. By August of 1920, 36 states (including South Dakota) ratified the amendment, ensuring that across the country, the right to vote could not be denied based on sex.

Source: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/south-dakota-women-s-history.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 South Dakota 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 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 SOUTH DAKOTA

- **Governor Kristi Noem selected a group of delegates to plan the 2020 South Dakota Women's Vote Celebration. This committee is planning educational and celebratory events around the state for the centennial.**
- **The suffrage centennial exhibit *The Right is Ours: Women Win the Vote* opened at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre on November 16, 2019 and will run through November 3, 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. in August 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 South Dakota 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:

- Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society: history.sd.gov/museum
- South Dakota Municipal League: sdmunicipalleague.org
- South Dakota State Historical Society: history.sd.gov
- South Dakota Historical Society Foundation: sdhsf.org
- Women's Suffrage in SoDak: historysouthdakota.wordpress.com/womens-suffrage-in-sodak

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 South Dakota page at womensvote100.org/southdakota

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?

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