

North Columbus Friends Meeting

Woman's Suffrage Movement Time Line

1787: The US Constitutional Convention places voting qualifications in the hands of the state. Women in all states except New Jersey lose the right to vote.

1807: New Jersey revokes women's right to vote.

1820: Elizabeth Margaret Chandler begins writing about women's equality and was one of the earliest women Friends to speak out publicly against slavery.

1832: Chandler and Laura Smith Haviland, help to organize the Logan Female Anti-Slavery Society in Michigan.

1833: Lucretia Mott and others organized the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society

1837: First Anti-Slavery Convention of American Women, held in New York City

1838: The second Anti-Slavery Convention of American Women, held in Philadelphia

1840: Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton are barred from attending the World Anti-Slavery Convention held in London. This prompts them to hold a convention in the US

1848: The first women's rights convention is held in Seneca Falls, NY. Women's suffrage is proposed by Stanton and agreed to after an impassioned speech by Frederick Douglass.

1848: Elizabeth Cady Stanton writes "The Declaration of Sentiments," creating the agenda of women's activism for decades to come.

1850: The first National Woman's Rights Convention is held in Worcester, Massachusetts, with more than 11,000 participants from 11 states.

1851: The second National Women's Rights Convention, again in Worcester, Mass.

1851: At a women's rights convention in Akron, Ohio, Sojourner Truth delivers her memorable speech, "Ain't I a woman?"

1861-1865: During the Civil War, efforts for the suffrage movement are minimal. Women put their energies toward the war effort.

1866: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony initiate the American Equal Rights Association, dedicated to the goal of suffrage for all regardless of gender or race.

1868: The Fourteenth Amendment to the US Constitution is ratified. "Citizens" and "voters" are defined exclusively as male.

1869: The American Equal Rights Association is torn apart by disagreements over whether to support the proposed 15th Amendment, which would enfranchise Black American males while avoiding the question of women's suffrage entirely.

1869: Stanton and Anthony found the National Woman Suffrage Association, considered a more radical institution, hoping to achieve the vote through a Constitutional amendment. They accused abolitionists and Republican supporters of emphasizing black civil rights at the expense of women's rights.

1869: Lucy Stone, Julia Ward Howe, and Thomas Wentworth Higginson found the American Woman Suffrage Association. They protest the confrontational tactics of the NWSA and tie themselves closely to the Republican Party, while concentrating solely on securing the vote for women state by state.

1870: The 15th Amendment to the US Constitution is adopted, declaring that neither the US nor any state can deny the right to vote "on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude," leaving open the right of States to deny the right to vote on account of sex.

1872: Sojourner Truth goes to a polling booth in Battle Creek, MI, demanding a ballot to vote. She is turned away. Susan B. Anthony, in Rochester, NY, casts a ballot for the presidential election. She is arrested several days later.

1873: Susan B. Anthony's trial is held. She is denied a trial by jury and loses her case, although she never pays the \$100 fine for voting.

1878: A federal amendment to grant women the right to vote is introduced for the first time in the US Congress. It is unsuccessful, however, the wording of this amendment is to become the exact wording 41 years later for the 19th Amendment.

1887: The first vote on women's suffrage is taken in the Senate and is defeated.

1890: The National Woman Suffrage Association and the American Woman Suffrage Association merge to become the National American Woman Suffrage Association. Its focus is to work at the state level. Elizabeth Cady Stanton is its first president.

1894: Susan B. Anthony asks Fredrick Douglass to NOT attend the Convention that year, essentially sidelining African American women.

1895: The Women's Bible, by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, is published. The NAWSA distances itself from the book, believing it to be too radical and therefore damaging to the movement.

1896: Mary Church Terrell, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, and Frances E.W. Harper, and others, found the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs.

1902: Women from 10 nations meet in Washington, D.C. to plan an international effort for suffrage. One of the speakers is Clara Barton.

1904: The National American Woman Suffrage Association adopts a Declaration of Principles.

1906: Harriet Stanton Blatch, Elizabeth Cady Stanton's daughter, returns from England and forms the Equality League of Self Supporting Women. The membership is based on professional and industrial working women and they initiate the practice of holding suffrage parades.

1908: The first suffrage parade in the US is held in Oakland, California, with approximately 300 women marching and carrying banners demanding the right to vote.

1910: The first large scale suffrage parade, held in New York City.

1911: 3,000 people march for women's suffrage in New York City.

1912: Theodore Roosevelt's Progressive Party includes women's suffrage in its platform.

1913: Alice Paul becomes the leader of the Congressional Union, a militant branch of the National American Woman's Suffrage Association.

1913: Paul organizes the Woman's Suffrage Parade down Pennsylvania Ave. in Washington, D.C. It's the largest suffrage parade to date. Marchers are attacked by a mob, hundreds of women are injured, no arrests are made.

1913: Kate Gordon organizes the Southern States Woman Suffrage Conference, where suffragists plan to lobby state legislatures for the enfranchisement of white women only.

1915: Forty thousand march in NYC suffrage parade, with many dressed in white, carrying banners with the name of the states they represent.

1916: Alice Paul and others break away from the National American Woman Suffrage Association and form the National Woman's Party.

1916: Jeannette Rankin, Montana, is the first woman elected to the House of Representatives, the US Congress

1917: "Silent Sentinels" are posted outside the White House by the National Woman Party. They are the first group to picket there. In June, arrests began, with nearly 500 women arrested in all and 168 jailed.

1917: November 14, "the Night of Terror" occurs at the Occoquan Workhouse in Virginia. Suffragist Prisoners were beaten and abused.

1918: All jailed suffragists released from prison. An appellate court rules all the arrests were illegal.

1918: Representative Rankin opens debate on a suffrage amendment in the House, where it passes, but then fails to win the 2/3rd majority required in the Senate.

1919: the National American Woman Suffrage Association has its convention in St. Louis. Carrie Chapman Catt rallies to transform the association into the League of Women Voters.

1919: The US Senate passes the 19th Amendment and the ratification process begins.

1920: Women win the right to vote!

1924: The Indian Citizenship Act grants citizenship to all indigenous Americans. The right to vote for this population is still determined by states, however. Some Native Americans were not enfranchised until 1957.

1952: The McCarran-Walter Act grants all residents of Asian ancestry the right to become citizens (and thereby the right to vote). Strict immigration quotas remain for China and Japan.

1961: The 23rd amendment grants residents of Washington, D.C. the right to vote in Federal elections.

1964: The 24th amendment eliminates the poll tax.

1965: LBJ signs into law the Voting Rights Act, which legally protects voters from racial discrimination. Many Black Americans functionally gain the right to vote for the first time. Literacy tests are also prohibited.

1971: The legal voting age is reduced from 21 to 18.

1972: *Dunn v. Blumstein* prohibits a requirement that a person reside in a jurisdiction for an extended period of time in order to vote there. The decision protects migrant workers' right to vote.

1975: The Voting Rights Act is renewed and Section 203 is added, which requires voting materials to be provided in translation in areas with large numbers of non-English speakers.

1984: The Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act requires all polling places to be fully accessible.

1986: The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act requires States to allow absentee voting for all active members of the United States Uniformed Services and merchant marine and US citizens residing abroad.