**THE 19TH AMENDMENT**

**A TIMELINE OF RIGHTS, LAW, POLICY, & POLITICS**

**January, 2020 Version**

**Compiled by Virginia Sapiro**

**1608-09**: First English women arrive to settle in America

**1619:** The beginning of the slave trade in the American colonies (although people who were enslaved were present earlier)

**1624:**  First Dutch families settle in America

**1661:** Maryland is the first colony to prohibit interracial marriage, followed by Virginia in 1691. The last state to do so was Wyoming in 1913.

**1769:** The colonies adopt the English system decreeing women cannot own property in their own name or keep their own earnings.

**1775-1783**: American Revolution

**1776:** Declaration of Independence. The new state constitutions of South Carolina and Pennsylvania explicitly limit voting to men.

**1776–86:** The new state constitution of Georgia and SC explicitly limit voting to white men. The constitutions of MA, NH, NY, SC, explicitly limit voting to men. The constitutions of MD, NC, PA, VT, explicitly limit voting to “Freemen.”

**1780:** The new state constitution of Massachusetts explicitly limits voting to men.

**1784**: New Hampshire explicitly limits the right to vote to men.

**1788:**  The Constitution of the U.S. is ratified and goes into force in 1789. There is no debateStates have a full right to determine rights to vote.

**1789**: French Revolution.

**1790**: New Jersey passes an election statute that refers to voters as “he or she”. In 1797 the vote was extended to all qualified women throughout the state.

**1807**: New Jersey disfranchises women and African Americans by law. Now women cannot vote in any state.

**1831:** Mississippi College becomes the first formerly male institution of higher education in the U.S. to admit women. It ends female admissions in 1850.

**1838**: Kentucky allows female heads of household in rural areas to vote in school-related elections and referenda.

**1839:**  The first state (Mississippi) grants women the right to hold property in their own names – with permission from their husbands.

**1848:** At Seneca Falls, New York, 300 women and men sign the Declaration of Sentiments, a plea for the end of discrimination against women.

**1849:** Elizabeth Blackwell graduates at the top of her class from Geneva Medical College, the first woman to receive the degree of Doctor of Medicine in the U.S.

**1850**: The first National Woman’s Rights Convention, in Worcester, MA. More than 1,000 participants.

**1854**: The 5th National Woman’s Rights Convention, in Philadelphia. Two black women were lead organizers.

**1855** – MI gives women taxpayers the right to vote in school elections.

**1855:** Congress passes a law saying that foreign women who marry American citizens automatically become American citizens.

**1855:** The University of Iowa becomes the first public university in the U.S. to admit men and women on an equal basis.

**1860**—10th annual Women’s Rights Convention meets in New York.

**1860** – By this year 14 states have passed some form of women’s property rights legislation. NY passes the most comprehensivethe Married Women’s Property Act.

**1861—**The beginning of the American Civil War.

**1861** KS gives women the right to vote in school elections.

**1863** – The Women’s Loyal National League founded by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony to campaign to abolish slavery. It collected nearly 400,000 signature on petitions to present to Congress. It was the first national women’s political organization in the U.S.

**1865:**  The Civil War ends. The 13th Amendment ending slavery is ratified. The Reconstruction begins

**1866** – Founding of the American Equal Rights Association, working for suffrage for women and African Americans, by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. At least 23 petitions for woman suffrage are presented to Congress that year.

**1867** – SBA and ECS address the New York State Constitutional Convention arguing that the new constitution include woman suffrage. It didn’t. Kansa holds state referenda on enfranchising, respectively, women and African Americans. Both fail.

**1867**—The Republican party begins to attack woman suffrage advocates for interfering in the black (male) suffrage campaign.

**1868 –** The 14th Amendment to the Constitution is ratified, with "citizens" and "voters" defined as "male" in the Constitution. The “male” limitation was included over the objection of suffragists. It is the first time gender explicitly enters the U.S. Constitution.

**1868** – Elizabeth Cady Stanton launches a newspaper, *The Revolution*, to cover women’s issues and news broadly and, of course, suffrage. She and Susan B. Anthony found the Working Women’s Association in their offices to organize women workers, including those of the National Labor Union. It fails about a year later.

**1869** – The territory of Wyoming grants unrestricted suffrage to women. The first woman in the U.S. is granted admission to practice law (in Iowa) and the first woman graduates from law school.

The National Woman Suffrage Association is founded by ECS, SBA, and others. The American Woman Suffrage Association is founded by Lucy Stone, Julia Ward Howe, and others.

**1870** – The 15th Amendment to the Constitution is ratified, stating that the right to vote cannot be denied or abridged on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. But that right can still be abridged on account of gender, so the Amendment has no effect on African American women.

**1870** – Utah Territory grants women the right to vote.

**1870:**  The University of Chicago School of Law graduates the first woman to earn a law degree in the U.S. She could not practice law because Illinois barred women from doing so until 1881.

**1871 –** Victoria Claflin Woodhull unsuccessfully argues to Congress that the Civil War Amendments give women the right to vote. The next year many women across the country attempt to vote, but are not allowed to do so. Susan B. Anthony is arrested for her attempt, convicted, but never pays the penalty.

**1871** – Founding of the Anti-Suffrage Society

**1872** – Victoria Claflin Woodhull is the first female presidential candidate in the U.S. (National Radical Reformers). Many women across the country attempt to vote. SBA is arrested, later tried, loses her case, is fined, but never pays the fine.

**1873** – The Women’s Christian Temperance Union founded in Ohio.

**1873 –** *Bradwell v Illinois*The Supreme Court rules that a state has the right to exclude a married woman from practicing law.

**1874** – A referendum in Michigan on women’s suffrage is defeated.

**1875**—*Minor v Happersett*, the Supreme Court says American citizenship does not confer the right to vote, so states do not have to allow women this right.

**1876:** CO women get the right to vote in school elections.

**1877** – The Reconstruction ends with the informal Compromise of 1877 that settled the disputed 1876 presidential election. Federal troops are pulled from the former Confederacy and Jim Crow takes hold, disfranchising African Americans in the South.

**1877:**  Boston University is the first American institution to award a woman a Ph.D. – in classics.

**1878** – A federal amendment to grant women the right to vote is introduced into Congress for the first time.

**1878:** Mississippi and NH women get the right to vote in school elections.

**1879:** MAwomen get the right to vote in school elections.

**1880**: Mississippi female heads of family get the right to vote in school elections

**1880:** NY and VT women get the right to vote in school elections

**1880**: The Colored Women’s Progressive Franchise Association founded in DC.

**1882** : The U.S. House and Senate appoint committees on women’s suffrage, which both report favorably.

**1882:** OR women get the right to vote in school elections.

**1883:**  Dakota territory and NE women get the right to vote in school elections.

**1883** – Washington territory grants women full voting rights.

**1886:** WI women get the right to vote in school elections.

**1887**: The first woman is elected mayor of an American town (Argonia, Kansas)

**1887**: A federal law disfranchises women in Utah to suppress the Mormon vote. The Supreme Court strikes down the law that enfranchised women in Washington territory.

**1887**: Kansas women get the right to vote in municipal elections. Rhode Island votes on a women’s suffrage referendum, which loses. NJ and the Territory of Arizona women get the right to vote in school elections.

**1889:** ID, MN, ND women get the right to vote in school elections. Montana women get the right to vote in municipal elections on tax issues.

**1890:** The first state (Wyoming) grants women the right to vote in all elections.

**1890**: The National and American Woman Suffrage Associations merge to form the National American woman Suffrage Association.

**1890:** A referendum on woman suffrage loses in South Dakota. WA and OK women get the right to vote in school elections.

**1891:** IL women get the right to vote in school elections.

**1893:** New Zealand is the first country in the world to grant women the right to vote.

**1893**: A woman suffrage referendum in Colorado passes, enfranchising women.

**1893:** CT women get the right to vote in school elections. KY widows and unmarried women who are taxpayers or have school-aged children get the right to vote in school elections. MI women who are literate get the right to vote in municipal elections.

**1894**: New York legislators ignore a pro-woman suffrage petition with 600,000 names.

**1894:**  OH women get the right to vote in school elections. IA women get the right to vote in municipal elections to issue bonds or increase taxes.

**1895:** IA women taxpayers get the right to vote in school elections.

**1896**: National Association of Colored Women founded in D.C.

**1896**: Utah and Idaho enfranchise women.

**1898:** DE women taxpayers get the right to vote in school elections. LA women get the right to vote in municipal elections on tax issues.

**1900:** By this year, every state has passed legislation granting married women the right to keep their own wages and to own property in their own name.

**1902**: A women’s suffrage referendum in New Hampshire fails.

**1906:** NYwomen property owners get the right to vote on tax issues in municipal elections.

**1907:** Congress passes a law stating that American women who marry foreigners automatically lose their American citizenship, thus taking away women’s independent citizenship for the first time.

**1908**: The first suffrage march in the United States is held in Oakland, California.

**1908**: *Muller v. Oregon*, the Supreme Court upheld a decision limiting women to 10-hour workdays in order to protect them. Women were also limited from jobs by weight-lifting limits (often limits set lower than the weight of the small children women carry), except in jobs women were expected to do, like being laundresses. Other laws barred from night shifts except in jobs they were expected to do like entertainment and ladies’ room attendants.

**1909:** MI women with taxed property get the right to vote in municipal elections on financial matters.

**1910**: Washington grants women the right to vote. NM women get the right to vote in school elections. NY property-owning women get the right to vote in municipal elections on bond issues.

**1911**: CA women get the full right to vote.

**1912**: Arizona, Alaska Territory, Kansas, and Oregon grant women the right to vote. KY women who are literate get the right to vote in school elections.

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

**1913**: The Congressional Union is founded as a militant branch of the National American Woman Suffrage Association by Alice Paul. It organized a massive suffrage parade for the inauguration of President Woodrow Wilson.

**1913**: Illinois grants women municipal and presidential suffrage but not state suffrage.

**1914**: Nevada and Montana grant women the right to vote.

**1914-18**: American participation in World War I

**1915:**  FL women get the right to vote in municipal elections.

**1916:** Jeannette Rankin, of Montana, is the first woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

**1916**: Alice Paul and others break away from NAWSA and form the National Woman’s Party.

**1917**: The NWP sponsors pickets of the White House. Women are arrested and jailed. The prisoners are beaten and abused.

**1917**: Arkansas grants women the right to vote in primary but not general elections. IN and ND women get the right to vote in some municipal elections.

**1917** – Rhode Island grants women presidential suffrage. New York becomes the first Eastern state to give women the full right to vote. NE women get the right to vote in municipal elections. VT women who are taxpayers get the right to vote in municipal elections.

**1918** – The 19th Amendment passes the U.S. House with exactly the number of votes needed, but it loses by 2 votes in the Senate. President Wilson declares his support and addresses the Senate in favor.

**1919** – In June the 19th Amendment is ratified by the Senate as well as the House, sending it to the states for ratification.

**1919** – Michigan, Oklahoma, and South Dakota grant women the full right to vote. IN, IA, ME, MN, MO, OH, TN, WI women get the right to vote in presidential elections.

**1920** – The National League of Women Voters is founded out of the former major suffrage organization.

**1920 –** The 19th Amendment to the Constitution is ratified in August, saying that the right to vote cannot be denied or abridged on account of gender. But women’s right to vote is still abridged on other grounds; especially race, despite the 15th and 19th Amendments.

**1920-22** – A series of court cases unsuccessfully challenge the validity of the 19th Amendment.

**1922—**Congress passes the Cable Act, or Married Women’s Act, that restores women’s independent citizenship.

**1923 –** A proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is introduced to Congress for the first of many times. It read, “Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation. It fails for the final time in 1982. The final state needed for ratification votes yes in 2020, but this is after the legal deadline.

**1924** – Native Americans gain the right to vote through the Indian Citizenship Act, but due to state laws, many are effectively barred from voting until at least 1948.

**1932 –** Hattie Wyatt Caraway, of Arkansas, becomes the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate.

**1933** – Frances Perkins is the first woman in the Cabinet – she is appointed Secretary of Labor by Franklin Roosevelt.

**1930:** Amendments to the Cable Act in 1930, 1931, and 1934 granted women the right to transmit their citizenship to their children.

**1943** – The Magnuson Act grants the right to vote to Chinese immigrants.

**1952** – The McCarran-Walter act repeals the race restrictions of the 1790 Naturalization Laws, thus giving the vote to Japanese Americans

**1961** – The 23rd Amendment grants residents of Washington, D.C. the right to vote in presidential elections

**1964** – The 24th Amendment abolishes poll taxes and literacy tests, which had effectively barred African Americans and many poor white people from voting.

**1965** – The Voting Rights Act of 1965 bars racial discrimination in voting, and is eventually mostly effective in eliminating barriers to voting that should have been illegal since the 15th and 19th Amendments.

**1966** – *Harper v Virginia Board of Elections* strikes down poll taxes at all levels of government.

**1971** – The 26th Amendment grants the right to vote to citizens 18-21 years old.

**1980** – The first woman is elected to the Senate without following her husband or father. (Paul Hawkins, R, FL)

**1981 –** Sandra Day O'Connor becomes first woman to serve on the Supreme Court.

**1982 –** The ERA falls short of ratification.

**1984** – The first woman to be nominated for vice president on a major party ticket (Geraldine Ferraro, D, lost).

**1984** – Mississippi becomes the last state to ratify the 19th Amendment.

**1986** – The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act grants the right to U.S. military and other citizens overseas living on military bases or aboard ship to vote.

**1996** – Many states begin to restore voting rights, or simply the process of voting rights restoration for people convicted of a felony.

**1997** – Madeleine Albright becomes the first female secretary of state (under Clinton).

**2007** –The first woman become Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives (Nancy Pelosi, D, CA)

**2008** – The Republican party nominates its first woman to run for vice president. (Sarah Palin, lost).

**2016**— For the first time in U.S. history, a woman is nominated by a major political party to run for president (Hillary Clinton, Democratic party). She wins the popular vote but loses the electoral vote.

**2018** – The first openly transgender gubernatorial candidate for a major party is nominated (Christine Hallquist, D.)