

U.S. Department of the Interior

Women's Equality Day

Journey to the 19th Amendment

1848 - 1920

1848

The Seneca Falls Convention

In July 1848, in Seneca Falls, New York, the Seneca Falls Convention was the first women's rights convention in the United States. The meeting launched the women's suffrage movement with 300 attendees, including organizers Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott. Sixty-eight women and 32 men (including Frederick Douglass) signed the Declaration of Sentiments, outlining the rights of American women.



1851

The Speech

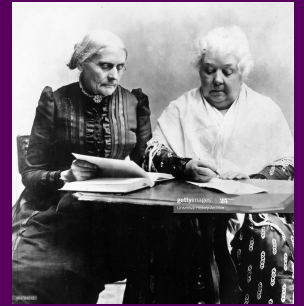
Sojourner Truth appears at the Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio, and delivers her seminal speech "Ain't I a Woman," now recognized as one of the most famous abolitionists and women's rights speeches in American history.



1866

American Equal Rights Association

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



1869

The Formation

After the split within the women's suffrage movement, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony are among those who established the National Woman Suffrage Association, while Lucy Stone and Julia Ward Howe helped form the American Woman Suffrage Association.



1872

Susan B. Anthony

One of several women in Rochester, New York, to vote in the presidential election, Susan B. Anthony was arrested and charged with voting illegally. A federal court heard her case and issued their decision in 1873 to convict and fine her. The other women who voted were arrested but not charged. The election inspectors who allowed the women to vote are arrested and found guilty. Jailed after refusing to pay their fines, President Ulysses S. Grant eventually pardons the inspectors.



1890

National American Woman Suffrage Association

The National Woman Suffrage Association and American Women Suffrage Association merged, forming the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA). The NAWSA worked to bring women the right to vote in individual states instead of through the federal government.



1913

Woman Suffrage Parade

The Woman Suffrage Parade, in 1913, was the first suffragist parade in Washington, D.C. It was also the first large, organized march on Washington for political purposes. Suffragists Alice Paul and Lucy Burns held the procession for the National American Woman Suffrage Association.



1917

The National Woman's Party

The National Woman's Party organizes "Silent Sentinel" pickets outside the White House, the first time protesters picket the White House. Beside them, in an urn, burns their Watchfire for Freedom. They are holding a protest banner calling out President Wilson on his lack of support for women's voting rights.



1918

President Woodrow Wilson

President Woodrow Wilson gives a speech promoting the United States as a beacon of democracy. He urges Congress to support woman suffrage as a war measure.



1919

The 19th Amendment is Passed

Fifty-two years after the introduction of the first Amendment legalizing voting for women, the U.S. Congress passed the 19th Amendment initiating a campaign for ratification.



1920

Winning the Vote at Last

Congress signs the 19th Amendment into law, which granted American women the right to vote, a right known as women's suffrage.



Data Sources

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