

Women's Suffrage

ALASKA

U.S. Territory: 1912

Statehood: 1959

Full Suffrage: 1913 territorial elections

1959 federal elections



How

- **1912:** Alaskans asked the U.S. Congress to accept it as a U.S. territory and form a legislature. In accepting the Alaska Territory, Congress allowed the territorial legislature to determine suffrage.
- **1913:** Suffragists gathered signatures and petitioned the first Alaska Territorial Legislature. The Alaska Territorial Legislature accepted the petition and passed a bill for suffrage in the Alaskan Territory.
- **1920:** Suffragists in the Alaska Territory declared and rallied support of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. However, people of U.S. territories, male and female, could not vote in Presidential elections.
- **1959:** Alaska became a state. Equal suffrage was won for federal elections.

Important Women's Organizations and Individual Women

- **Cornelia Templeton Jewett Hatcher:** Cornelia Hatcher ran the Alaskan National Council of Woman Voters and was president of the Alaskan Woman's Christian Temperance Union which also fought for suffrage. She wrote the first petition presented in the Alaska Territory Legislature which led to suffrage law. She continued to work for equality promoting laws allowing female jurors and property rights after marriage.
- **Nellie Cashman:** Nellie Cashman was a miner and entrepreneur who moved to Alaska in 1898. She became the Alaska Territory's first female voter when she cast a ballot in 1912, a year before women in Alaska won the right to vote.

Sources

- <https://lam.alaska.gov/suffrage-star>
- <https://alaskahistoricalsociety.org/about-ahs/special-projects/centennial-of-womens-suffrage-alaska/>
- [votes-for-women-woman-suffrage-in-alaska-a-resource-list/](#)

Women's Suffrage

ARIZONA

U.S. Territory: 1863

Statehood: February 1912

Partial Suffrage: 1883 school elections

Full Suffrage: November 1912



How

- **1866:** Women in the Arizona Territory won the right to hold property. As property owners, they had to pay property taxes. Early suffragists claimed that denying women the vote was taxation without representation.
- **1883:** : Arizona women won partial suffrage and could vote in local school board elections. Organizations like the Arizona Women's Equal Rights Association, which formed in 1887, demanded full suffrage.
- **1880s:** The Arizona Territorial Legislature considered suffrage bills in almost every session, but governors vetoed the bills, or they didn't pass one of both legislative houses.
- **1910:** At the Second Arizona Constitutional Convention, the National Women's Suffrage Association lobbied for inclusion of suffrage in the state constitution. The governor objected because he thought it would jeopardize Arizona's bid for statehood.
- **1912:** Several months after Arizona became a state, 68% of voters supported passage of women's suffrage in Arizona through an initiative measure, a petition by the people to amend the constitution.

Important Women's Organizations and Individual Women

- **Josephine Brawley Hughes:** Josephine founded the first territorial suffrage association in 1891, rallied citizens in the territory to demand the vote for women, lobbied legislative members to introduce a suffrage bills and led the Arizona movement until 1899.
- **Francis Willard Munds:** Francis joined the Arizona Equal Suffrage Association in 1903, served as its president from 1909 to 1912, and lobbied for pro-suffrage at Arizona's Constitutional Convention. After Arizona suffrage in 1912, she became the first woman senator in Arizona and the second in the United States in 1915.

Sources

- <https://azlibrary.gov/dazl/learners/research-topics/womens-suffrage>
- <https://azpbs.org/2020/07/how-arizona-women-won-the-vote/>

Women's Suffrage

ARKANSAS

Statehood: 1836

Partial Suffrage: 1917 primary elections

Full Suffrage: 1920 with 19th Amendment passage



How

- **1868:** Women's suffrage was proposed at the Arkansas Constitutional Convention, but it was defeated.
- **1879–1889:** Women's suffrage organizations emerged, including the Women's Christian Temperance Union, which advocated for women's suffrage in addition to Prohibition (banning the sale of alcohol), the Arkansas Woman Suffrage Association, the Arkansas Equal Suffrage Association and the *Women's Chronicle*, a newspaper that became a main source for Southern suffragists.
- **1891–1899:** Suffrage bills were introduced throughout the decade for full suffrage and partial suffrage, including the right for women to vote in school elections and serve on school boards. Each failed.
- **1911–1914:** The Arkansas Equal Suffrage Association began to decline in 1899. Suffragists regrouped and founded the Political Equality League and the Arkansas Woman Suffrage Association.
- **1911–1915:** The Arkansas legislature considered constitutional amendments for woman's suffrage. None of them passed.
- **1917:** Arkansas became the first state without full suffrage to allow women to vote in state primary elections (choosing candidates to run for President); approximately 40,000 women voted in the 1918 Arkansas primary elections.
- **1919–1920:** Arkansas became the twelfth state to ratify the 19th Amendment in July 1919. In August 1920, the required number of states ratified the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and state and national suffrage was won.

Important Women's Organizations and Individual Women

- **Clara McDiarmid:** An officer in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Clara McDiarmid organized the Arkansas Equal Suffrage Association in 1888. A lawyer unable to practice law in Arkansas because she was a female, she advised women on their legal rights and wrote about suffrage in women's journals.
- **The Women's Chronicle:** Founded by Catherine Campbell Cuninghame, Mary Burt Brooks, and Haryot Holt Cahoon, the *Chronicle* was a weekly newspaper and the first southern newspaper to take a stand supporting women's suffrage.

Sources

- <https://ualrexhibits.org/suffrage/womens-suffrage-in-arkansas/>
- <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/womens-suffrage-movement-4252/>

Women's Suffrage

CALIFORNIA

Statehood: 1850

Full Suffrage: 1911



How

- **1849–1879:** California women had some rights but not suffrage during Spanish and Mexican rule. The first California constitution continued the Spanish tradition of women's property rights, and laws mandated female teachers receive the same salary as men, allowed women to practice law, and do any job.
- **1870:** A suffragist sued a county for refusing to include her name in the voter registry arguing the 14th Amendment provided her equal protection as a citizen including voting. The court ruled against her as did the State Supreme court in an appeal.
- **1879:** Suffragists petitioned women's suffrage to the California Constitutional Convention without success.
- **1893–1900:** The California legislature passed a suffrage bill, but the Governor vetoed it. A suffrage bill passed by the legislature was defeated in a referendum where people vote directly on a law.
- **1901–1907:** A suffragist sued San Francisco for not allowing her to vote using the "taxation without representation" argument, but she lost her case in the court. Additional bills for partial suffrage—voting in school elections—and full suffrage did not pass.
- **1910–1911:** The California Legislature put women's suffrage on the 1911 ballot (referendum). Suffragist organizations campaigned, mobilizing over 10,000 supporters. San Francisco Bay Area voters did not pass the suffrage amendment, and Los Angeles voters barely passed it, but rural (non-city) votes led to a women's suffrage win.

Important Women's Organizations and Individual Women

- **Ellen Clark Sargent:** Ellen Clark Sargent co-founded the Century Club, sued San Francisco for taxation without representation without a vote, and was honorary president of California's Equal Suffrage Association seven times.
- **Elizabeth Lowe Watson:** Elizabeth Lowe Watson was President of the California Equal Suffrage Association. She was traveled around the state to advocate for women's suffrage at churches, conventions, and rallies.

Sources

- <https://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/women-get-right-vote/history-womens-suffrage-california>
- <https://museumsrv.org/post-1265/>

Women's Suffrage

COLORADO

U.S. Territory: 1861

Statehood: 1876

Partial Suffrage: 1876 school elections

Full Suffrage: 1893



How

- **1868–1870:** The former governor of the Colorado Territory and other legislators attempted to get the territorial legislature to discuss women's suffrage without success. The Territorial Governor's efforts on behalf of women's suffrage gained more support, but they remained unsuccessful.
- **1876:** Women suffragists formed the Territorial Women's Suffrage Society. At the Colorado Constitutional Convention, women spoke and organized petitions for suffrage. Partial suffrage in the form of voting in school elections was included in the state's constitution and Colorado became a state.
- **1877:** The Colorado Constitution of 1876 stated that the legislature could extend full suffrage, but it would have to be approved by voters (a referendum—voters vote on a bill passed by the legislature). The first suffrage referendum failed in 1877.
- **1877–1893:** Suffragists lobbied the legislature and rallied the public's support, but women's suffrage on municipal (city) issues was unsuccessful, as was another proposed amendment to the Colorado Constitution.
- **1893:** Five suffrage bills were introduced into the legislature. One of those bills passed and moved onto voters, who approved it. Women won full suffrage in Colorado, the first state to do so through a referendum (a direct vote by the people).

Important Women's Organizations and Individual Women

- **Eliza Routt:** Eliza Routt worked with her husband (Colorado territory and state Governor John Rutt) to include women's suffrage in the Colorado State Constitution, campaigned to get the issue on the ballot, co-established the Denver Equal Suffrage League, and when suffrage was won, was the first woman to register to vote in Colorado.
- **Territorial Woman Suffrage Society:** Formed in 1876, the Territorial Woman Suffrage Society changed its name numerous times, including Women's Suffrage Association of Colorado, Colorado Equal Suffrage Association, and Non-Partisan Equal Suffrage Association of Colorado. The organizations fought for full suffrage until it became a legal right for women in Colorado.

Sources

- <https://coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/womens-suffrage-movement>
- <https://www.loc.gov/resource/rbnawsa.n1331/?st=gallery>

Women's Suffrage

HAWAII

U.S. Territory: 1898

Statehood: 1959

Full Suffrage: 1920 territorial elections with 19th Amendment passage;

1959 federal elections with statehood



How

- **1795–1892:** Hawai'i had been an independent country with a constitutional monarchy. The Kingdom did not deny women the right to vote, nor did it officially grant it. However, women were ambassadors to other countries, judges, and other government officials.
- **1893:** American and European businessmen overthrew Queen Lili'uokalani and established a provisional government that prohibited women from voting.
- **1898:** Hawai'i became a U.S. Territory. Women who held government positions still kept their official roles but could not vote on territorial matters. Hawaiian women fought to win their rights back.
- **1912:** Suffragists established the Women's Equal Suffrage Association of Hawai'i. They organized speeches, wrote in newspapers, circulated petitions, and held rallies in support of women's suffrage.
- **1919:** Suffragists fought for a bill allowing the Hawaii Territory to decide on suffrage themselves. The Hawaiian Territorial Legislature debated a suffrage bill. It passed the state Senate but stalled in the House of Representatives. Five hundred women protested at the state legislature.
- **1920:** Suffragists in the Territory of Hawaii declared and rallied support of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. With its passage, women could vote in Hawaiian Territorial elections. However, people of U.S. territories, male and female, could not vote in Presidential elections.
- **1959:** Hawaii became a state. Equal suffrage was won for federal elections.

Important Women's Organizations and Individual Women

- **Emma Ka'iilikapuolono Metcalf Beckley Nakuina:** Emma Nakuina was a judge in the Hawaiian Kingdom. When Hawaii became a U.S. Territory, she could not vote although she still ruled on court cases. She also fought for Native Hawaiian's rights and wrote articles and books for learning about and respecting Hawaiian culture.
- **Wilhelmina Kekelaokalaninui Widemann Dowsett:** Wilhelmina Dowsett fought for suffrage forming the National Women's Equal Suffrage Association of Hawai'i, leading 500 women to rally support in the Hawaiian Territorial Legislature, and lobbying the Territorial Representative to the U.S. Congress.

Sources

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Women's Suffrage

IDAHO

U.S. Territory: 1862

Statehood: 1890

Partial Suffrage: 1885 school elections

Full Suffrage: 1896



How

- **1870:** A women's suffrage bill was introduced into the Idaho Territorial Legislature. It failed to pass as did similar proposals in 1885 and 1887.
- **1885:** Women won partial suffrage and could run for school official positions and vote in local school elections.
- **1889:** At the Idaho Constitutional Convention, full suffrage was not included in the constitution, but women retained the right to run for school office and vote in school elections.
- **1893-1895:** Idaho suffragists formed the first suffrage association in Idaho as well as the Idaho Equal Suffrage Association, a branch of the National Women's Suffrage Association.
- **1896:** An amendment to the Idaho State Constitution for women's right to vote in local and state elections passed the legislature and went to voters for approval (referendum). It passed, but of the 30,000 male voters, less than 20,000 of them left the ballot blank on the question of women's suffrage. People questioned if the vote was valid, and the Supreme Court of Idaho ruled it was. Women's suffrage in Idaho was won.

Important Women's Organizations and Individual Women

- **Abigail Scott Duniway:** Abigail Scott Duniway began the suffrage movement in Oregon and fought for the right to vote there and in Washington state. She moved to Idaho and became a leader in the movement, lobbying for suffrage at the Idaho Legislature at the Constitutional Convention.
- **Minnie Priest Dunton:** Minnie Priest Dunton was one of the earliest women from Idaho calling for a nationwide suffrage law, even after women won the right to vote in her state of Idaho. In 1907, Dunton became the Idaho State Librarian.

Sources

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Women's Suffrage

IOWA

Statehood: 1846

Partial Suffrage: 1894 school and city elections;

1919 presidential elections

Full Suffrage: 1920 with 19th Amendment passage



How

- **1870:** Iowa women held a women's rights convention and formed the Iowa Woman Suffrage Association. Women won the right to practice law, and the Iowa Legislature put the question of women's suffrage up for a vote. It did not pass.
- **1870-1916:** The Iowa Legislature considered women's suffrage in almost every legislative session.
- **1894:** Iowa women won partial suffrage and could vote on ballot questions concerning tax increases for schools and cities and on bond issues.
- **1902:** African American women founded the Iowa Association of Colored Women's Clubs to work towards African American suffrage, property rights, education, and working wages.
- **1908:** Iowa's first suffrage march was held in Boone.
- **1916:** The Iowa Legislature finally passed a state constitutional amendment for women's suffrage, which placed the question of women's suffrage in front of voters. It did not pass.
- **1919-1920:** Iowa women won presidential suffrage in April. On July 2, the Iowa Legislature became the tenth state to ratify the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. In 1920, the required number of states ratified the 19th Amendment, and state and national suffrage was won.

Important Women's Organizations and Individual Women

- **Mary Jane Whitely Coggeshall:** Known as the "Mother of Woman Suffrage in Iowa," Mary Jane Whitley Coggeshall served as the first editor of *The Woman's Standard*, Iowa's suffrage newspaper. She sued the city of Des Moines in 1908 when women were not allowed to vote on a bond issue.

Sources

- <http://sdr.lib.uiowa.edu/exhibits/suffrage/1916intro.html>
- <http://www.iowapbs.org/iowapathways/mypath/fight-womens-suffrage>

Women's Suffrage

KANSAS

Statehood: 1861

Partial Suffrage: 1861 school elections;

1887 municipal (city) elections

Full Suffrage: 1912



How

- **1859–1861:** Suffragists spoke and rallied support for women's suffrage at the Kansas Constitutional Convention. The 1861 state constitution stated women could only vote in school elections and Kansas became a state.
- **1867:** The State Impartial Suffrage Association campaigned to amend the constitution to include equal suffrage for blacks and women. It passed the legislature and went to voters for approval. This was the first state women's suffrage referendum (voters approve or reject bills passed by the legislature). The voters did not approve it.
- **1868–1879:** A Kansas senator introduced the federal woman suffrage amendment in Congress, and the Prohibition Party in Kansas endorsed women's suffrage.
- **1879:** The Equal Suffrage Association was established in Lincoln, Kansas, and Kansas suffragists later founded a statewide organization.
- **1887:** Kansas women won partial suffrage and could vote in municipal (city) elections. Voters in the town of Argonia elected Susanna Salter, the first women mayor in the United States.
- **1888–1894:** While fourteen towns elected female mayors, a constitutional amendment for women's suffrage in Kansas did not pass and another referendum failed several years later.
- **1911–12:** A suffrage amendment passed the state legislature and voters approved the referendum. Kansas amended the state constitution granting women full suffrage.

Important Women's Organizations and Individual Women

- **Carrie Langston:** Carrie Langston was an African American suffragist who worked across white and black communities for equal suffrage in Kansas. She was also the mother of poet Langston Hughes.
- **Clarina Nichols:** Clara Nichols was an abolitionist who also fought for equal rights for women in Kansas. She spoke at the Constitutional Convention in 1859 and helped secure women equal access to education, child custody, and suffrage in school elections.

Sources

- <https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/women-s-suffrage/14524>
- <https://lwk.org/about-lwk-of-kansas/lwk-history>

Women's Suffrage

LOUISIANA

U.S. Territory: 1805

Statehood: 1812

Partial Suffrage: 1898 tax issues

Full Suffrage: 1920 with 19th Amendment passage



How

- **1879:** Women secured a petition to address suffrage at the Louisiana Constitutional Convention, spoke and testified in committees on voting, and won the right to hold school official positions. Additional laws preferencing male gender invalidated this right.
- **1892–5:** Suffrage organizations were founded—the Portia Club (1892) and Equal Rights for All club (1895).
- **1898:** In response to the 15th Amendment (Black male suffrage), women suffragists pushed their cause at the Louisiana Constitutional Convention. The constitution limited the ability for Black men to vote but women won partial suffrage and could vote on tax issues. Louisiana women won partial suffrage and could vote on tax issues.
- **1914–1916:** The Woman's Suffrage Party fought for full suffrage in a bill in the Louisiana Legislature (1914), at a convention to amend the constitution (1915) and advocated for equal and partial suffrage in the legislature (1916). All efforts failed.
- **1918:** The Louisiana state legislature passed a bill for full women's suffrage, but when it was put to the public for approval, it did not pass.
- **1920:** The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution passed Congress and went to states for ratification. In 1920, the Louisiana Legislature voted against ratification. It became federal law with the ratification of other states. The Louisiana House of Representatives passed an amendment to the state constitution for women's suffrage. It failed to pass the Louisiana Senate. Several months later, the required number of states ratified the 19th Amendment and national suffrage was won.
- **1970:** Although already a federal law as of 1920, Louisiana officially ratified the 19th Amendment.

Important Women's Organizations and Individual Women

- **Caroline Merrick:** Caroline Merrick formed the Portia Club in New Orleans in 1892 which fought for women's rights and became president of the Louisiana Woman Suffrage Association in 1895. She spoke at the Constitutional Convention of 1879.
- **Elizabeth Saxon:** Elizabeth Saxon was the first woman to address a public body in Louisiana when she spoke at the Louisiana Constitutional Convention about a woman's right to run in school office elections. She traveled to Washington, D.C. and throughout New England to promote suffrage. She helped found the Portia Club in New Orleans which fought for women's suffrage.

Sources

- <https://www.nps.gov/articles/louisiana-and-the-19th-amendment.htm>
- https://exhibits.tulane.edu/exhibit/history_political/

Women's Suffrage

MINNESOTA

Statehood: 1858

Partial Suffrage: 1875 school elections;

1919 presidential elections

Full Suffrage: 1920 with 19th Amendment passage



How

- **1870s:** Minnesota women organized and lobbied for the right to vote.
- **1875:** Minnesota women won partial suffrage and could vote in school elections.
- **1881:** Women founded the Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association to advocate for full suffrage.
- **1893:** The Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association started lobbying for an amendment to the state constitution in which the word “male” would be removed as a voter registration requirement. These attempts were unsuccessful.
- **1919:** Early in the year, Minnesota women won the right to vote in presidential elections. On September 8, Minnesota became the fifteenth state to ratify the 19th Amendment.
- **1920:** The required number of states ratified the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and state and national suffrage was won.

Important Women's Organizations and Individual Women

- **Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association:** Suffragists Harriet Bishop and Sarah Burger Stearns founded this organization in 1881.
- **National Woman's Party:** Women in Minnesota started a branch of an organization called the National Woman's Party to fight for women's right to vote.
- **Scandinavian Woman Suffrage Association:** At the time, newly arrived Norwegians and Swedes formed Minnesota's largest immigrant group. Members from this group founded their own association to advocate for women's suffrage.

Sources

- https://history.house.gov/Records-and-Research/Listing/lfp_016/
- <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/womenshistory/19th-amendment-by-state.htm>

Women's Suffrage

MISSOURI

Statehood: 1821

Partial Suffrage: 1919 presidential elections

Full Suffrage: 1920 with 19th Amendment passage



How

- **1867:** Missouri politicians rejected a proposal to remove the words “male” and “white” in the state constitution as requirements for voter eligibility.
- **1869:** Members of the Suffrage Association of Missouri delivered a petition, demanding women's suffrage. The first Missouri women's suffrage convention took place in St. Louis, introducing the argument that the 14th Amendment, which defined citizenship and ensured equal protection for all citizens under the law, made women eligible to vote.
- **1870-1920:** Suffragists fought for the right to vote during every Missouri legislative session. They sought a constitutional amendment (1901), initiative vote by the people (1914) and bills (1886; 1917) but were unsuccessful each time.
- **1916:** Thousands of women wearing white and gold participated in the Golden Lane Protest, known as the “walkless, talkless parade,” outside the Democratic National Convention in St. Louis. As protest, the women silently stared at voters welcoming the Democratic Presidential candidate Woodrow Wilson.
- **1919:** In March, Missouri women won partial suffrage and could vote in presidential elections. Just five months later, Missouri became the 11th state to ratify the 19th Amendment.
- **1920:** The required number of states ratified the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and state and national suffrage was won.

Important Women's Organizations and Individual Women

- **Virginia Minor:** Virginia Minor served as the president of the Woman Suffrage Society of Missouri and co-founded the Woman Suffrage Association in St. Louis. She fought for women's suffrage arguing the 14th Amendment protected women's right to vote and sued because she was not allowed to register to vote.
- **Phoebe Couzins:** Phoebe Couzins joined the St. Louis Woman Suffrage Association, served as a delegate to the American Equal Rights Convention in St. Louis, and became a member of the National Woman Suffrage Association. She was the first woman to go to law school in Missouri, and she graduated with honors; her studies in law helped the suffragists argue and learn the justice system.

Sources

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- https://www.sos.mo.gov/cmsimages/bluebook/2019-2020/1_Almanac.pdf
- https://tam.missouri.edu/MHCTC/exhibit_suffrage.html

Women's Suffrage

MONTANA

U.S. Territory: 1864

Statehood: 1889

Partial Suffrage: 1883 school elections, taxes

Full Women's Suffrage: 1914



How

- **1883:** Montana women won partial suffrage and could vote in district school elections and hold school official positions. Women with property could also vote on tax issues.
- **1889:** When the Montana Territory applied for statehood, women's suffrage was up for a vote. It did not pass the constitutional convention, but when Montana became a state, women retained their rights to vote in district school elections, hold school official positions, and—for property-owning women—vote on tax issues.
- **1895-1911:** The state legislature considered women's suffrage during almost every legislative session. Suffrage bills didn't pass both legislative houses, or if passed by the legislature, was never approved by Montana voters.
- **1914:** The Montana Legislature approved a constitutional amendment to establish new suffrage laws allowing women to vote in general elections. The state constitutional suffrage amendment was put to the voters on a ballot and passed. Full suffrage was won in Montana.

Important Women's Organizations and Individual Women

- **Jeannette Rankin:** Jeannette Rankin helped to win Washington suffrage, worked to support the national suffrage movement, and argued for women's suffrage in the Montana state legislature. She was elected by Montana voters to the U.S. House of Representatives, the first female Congresswoman, and introduced the Susan B. Anthony Woman Suffrage amendment to the House.
- **Ella Knowles:** Ella Knowles was president of the Montana Women Suffrage Association, lobbied the Montana legislature for women's suffrage, and spoke at national conventions in Montana and other states. She was also the first woman licensed to practice law in Montana and had her own law company.

Sources

- <http://montanawomenshistory.org/the-long-campaign-2/>
- <https://scholarworks.montana.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1/6299/31762100209335.pdf?sequence=1>

Women's Suffrage

NEBRASKA

Statehood: 1867

Partial Suffrage: 1869 school elections

1917 city elections

Full Suffrage: 1920 with 19th Amendment passage



How

- **1855:** Nebraska women began arguing publicly for the right to vote.
- **1869:** Nebraska women won the right to vote for school board members.
- **1881:** The Nebraska Woman's Suffrage Association was founded, and members began publishing *The Western Woman's Journal*, a monthly paper advocating for women's rights, including the right to vote.
- **1881-1920:** The first women's suffrage bill to be introduced in the Nebraska legislature failed (1881). The issue of women's suffrage would be considered in every state legislative session until 1920.
- **1917:** Women won partial suffrage and could vote in city elections and presidential elections. An anti-suffrage group put a measure on the ballot for people to stop women from being able to cast any kind of vote. Courts ruled the petition invalid due to fake signatures, but by that time the 19th Amendment had passed.
- **1919-1920:** The state of Nebraska ratified the Nineteenth Amendment in 1919. The required number of states ratified the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and state and national suffrage was won in 1920.

Important Women's Organizations and Individual Women

- **Amelia Bloomer:** Amelia Bloomer was an activist, suffragist, and editor of *The Lily*, a national newspaper for women which ran from 1849 to 1853. In 1900, Bloomer spoke in front of the U.S. Senate Committee advocating for women's suffrage.
- **Nebraska Women's Suffrage Association:** The Nebraska Women's Suffrage Association (renamed the Nebraska League of Women Voters in 1919) formed in 1881 to advocate for women's suffrage. The Association published *The Western Woman's Journal*, a periodical highlighting women's issues.

Sources

- <http://www.nebraskastudies.org/en/1900-1924/votes-for-women/the-struggle/>
- <https://www.nps.gov/articles/nebraska-and-the-19th-amendment.htm>

Women's Suffrage

NEVADA

Statehood: 1864
Full Suffrage: 1914



How

- **1864:** The Nevada Constitution granted the right to vote only to white men.
- **1869–1871:** A Nevada legislator introduced a women's suffrage bill. The bill passed both houses of the 1869 Nevada legislature, but the law stated constitutional amendments must pass two consecutive sessions (each legislative session was two years). The suffrage bill did not pass the second legislature in 1871.
- **1870:** Suffragists held the first convention for women's suffrage at Battle Mountain and established the first Nevada state women's suffrage organization.
- **1873–1899:** The Nevada Legislature considered women's suffrage in almost every legislative session.
- **1887–1889:** Women won the right to run for school office, but they could not vote in school elections.
- **1895–1897:** Nevada suffragists created *The Nevada Citizen*, a suffrage newspaper, to further the cause.
- **1896–1899:** Despite laws in which Nevada women were elected to school official positions and several women who voted in school elections, a new law prohibited women from running for school superintendent.
- **1911–1914:** Organizers founded the Nevada Equal Franchise Society, and the Nevada legislature passed a suffrage amendment in 1911. The amendment passed a second time during the 1913 legislative session and was put to Nevada voters in 1914. Women won suffrage in Nevada with 10,936 votes in favor of suffrage and 7,258 against.

Important Women's Organizations and Individual Women

- **Anne Martin:** Anne Martin fought with suffragists in London using hunger strikes as protest and was jailed. Returning to Reno, Nevada, she served as President of the Nevada Equal Franchise Society, wrote a chapter on women's suffrage in the 1913 book, *History of Nevada*, and campaigned to win suffrage.
- **Bird Wilson:** Bird Wilson was a lawyer who advocated for women's rights. She wrote "Women Under Nevada Law," a pamphlet which was used in the suffrage campaign, served as vice-president of the Nevada Equal Franchise Society vice-president, and worked to gain the right to vote for Nevada women in the 1914 election.

Sources

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- <https://suffrage100nv.org/about/suffrage-timeline/>

Women's Suffrage

NEW MEXICO

Statehood: 1912
Partial Suffrage: 1911 school elections
Full Suffrage: 1920 with 19th Amendment passage



How

- **1540–1848:** Spain governed New Mexico land from 1540 to 1821, and the Republic of Mexico governed New Mexico land from 1821 to 1846. Women living in New Mexico from 1540 until 1846 held a variety of rights, including property and marriage. When the U.S. acquired New Mexico after the Mexican American War in 1848, New Mexico women lost those rights.
- **1896:** At the New Mexico Territorial Convention, the New Mexico Woman Suffrage Association was organized and worked to convince the government to write women's suffrage into the territorial constitution.
- **1911:** Women's right to vote in school elections was included in the New Mexico Constitution, but that right was not extended to national elections.
- **1915:** New Mexico suffragists organized a campaign for the 19th Amendment lobbying the Chair of the Senate Woman Suffrage Committee.
- **1920:** On February 21, New Mexico approved the 19th Amendment and was the 32nd state to ratify it. In August, the required number of states ratified the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and state and national suffrage was won.

Important Women's Organizations and Individual Women

- **Nina Otero-Warren:** Nina Otero-Warren fought for suffrage in New Mexico and was heavily involved in politics. In 1918 she became the Superintendent of the Santa Fe school system where she fought for the rights of Spanish-speaking people and Native Americans in schools. She eventually ran for the U.S. House of Representatives in 1921.
- **Aurora (Lucero) White Lea:** Aurora (Lucero) White Lea worked to rally support for women's suffrage using the political connections of her father, the New Mexico Secretary of State, and her skills as a bi-lingual educator to deliver speeches and fliers in Spanish.

Sources

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Women's Suffrage

NORTH DAKOTA

U.S. Territory: 1861

Statehood: 1889

Partial Suffrage: 1883 school elections;

1917 presidential and city elections

Full Women's Suffrage: 1920 with 19th Amendment passage



How

- **1883:** North Dakota women won partial suffrage and could vote in all school elections including local, county, and state superintendents, school bond issues, and school board members.
- **1893:** A full suffrage bill passed in in both houses of the state legislature. The governor intended to sign the bill into law. However, the bill was mysteriously "lost."
- **1901-1911:** The North Dakota Legislation considered women suffrage bills in every legislative session, but none passed.
- **1913:** A woman's suffrage bill passed the state legislature, which then went to state voters to approve. Women's suffrage was rejected by North Dakota voters.
- **1917:** North Dakota women won additional partial suffrage and could vote in presidential elections and some municipal (city) elections.
- **1919-1920:** On December 1, North Dakota became the twentieth state to ratify the 19th Amendment. In 1920, the required number of states ratified the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and state and national suffrage was won.

Important Women's Organizations and Individual Women

- **Elizabeth Preston Anderson:** Elizabeth Preston Anderson served as President of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, an organization that worked to prohibit alcohol in the state, but also strongly supported women's suffrage. She fought for women's suffrage from 1893 until 1920 and was present at the signing of the 1917 bill that expanded women's suffrage to presidential and municipal (city) elections.
- **Linda Slaughter:** Linda Slaughter served as Superintendent of Public Instruction in Burleigh County four times and believed working women should have a voice in the government that taxed their earnings. She became the regional officer of the northern Dakota Territory of the National Woman Suffrage Association.

Sources

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

Women's Suffrage

OKLAHOMA

U.S. Territory: 1890

Statehood: 1907

Partial Suffrage: 1890 school elections

Full Suffrage: 1918



How

- **1890:** Oklahoma women won partial suffrage in the Oklahoma Territory and could vote in school elections and be elected as a delegate to Congress and in local county and city offices.
- **1895-1899:** Suffragists established the Oklahoma Territory Equal Suffrage Association and brought voting-rights bills to the territorial legislature. The bills failed.
- **1904-1906:** Women from Oklahoma and Indian territories founded the Twin Territorial Woman Suffrage Association and the Oklahoma Woman Suffrage Association.
- **1906-1907:** During the Oklahoma Constitutional Convention, suffragists rallied for full suffrage in the state constitution. The Convention kept the territorial law for a women's right to vote in school elections. Oklahoma became a state.
- **1909-1910:** Women petitioned themselves using the initiative system to get women's suffrage on the state election ballot. Even though the petition gained enough signatures, it was challenged in court that women were not qualified voters so their signatures did not count. The court disagreed, and the state suffrage amendment went to voters. It did not pass.
- **1911:** The Legislature revoked women's rights to hold a county office position unless they were a registered voter. Women challenged this in the state Supreme Court who decided in their favor.
- **1917-1918:** A suffrage bill passed and was sent to voters (referendum). Oklahoma voters ratified the legislative bill to amend the constitution to include women's suffrage.

Important Women's Organizations and Individual Women

- **Kate Biggers:** Kate Biggers served as the first president of the Equal Suffrage Association of Oklahoma and Indian Territory. It became the Oklahoma Woman's Suffrage Association, and she was president for seven years. She spoke at the Oklahoma Constitutional Convention and wrote suffrage columns in local newspapers.
- **Oklahoma Woman's Suffrage Association:** The Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) formed in 1890 and helped to win women's vote in school elections. The Suffrage Association of Oklahoma was formed dedicated solely to suffrage. It became the Oklahoma Woman's Suffrage Association and eventually combined with the Equal Suffrage Association of Oklahoma and Indian Territory fighting for suffrage at the constitutional convention, at legislative sessions, and in elections.

Sources

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Women's Suffrage

OREGON

Statehood: 1859

Partial Suffrage: 1862 school elections for some women

Full Suffrage: 1912



How

- **1857:** At the Oregon Constitutional Convention, white men were granted the right to vote.
- **1862:** Oregon women won partial suffrage and could vote in school elections, but that right was limited to women who were widows, had children, and owned taxable property in the school district.
- **1870s:** Oregon suffragists voted in the Presidential election and challenged courts to have their votes received and counted. Their votes were received but not counted. The Oregon Woman Suffrage Association was formed to continue the fight.
- **1878-1898:** The Oregon Legislature passed a bill allowing property-owning citizens to vote in school elections, but election judges prevented property-owning women from voting in school elections in Eugene. Women challenged this in court, and the court ruled in their favor.
- **1880-1890s:** Amendments to the Oregon Constitution required approval in two consecutive state legislative sessions, followed by voter ratification (referendum). Proposed suffrage amendments failed to pass the legislature two times or voters.
- **1902-1912:** Oregon suffragists campaigned using the initiative (issue brought to vote by people) and referendum (voters approve or reject legislative bill). Voters did not pass amendments in 1884, 1900, 1906, 1908, 1910, and 1912.
- **1912:** Seventy women's groups campaigned for a suffrage amendment across the state using the initiative. Voters approved the state amendment. Oregon women won full suffrage when Oregon voters approved a state constitutional amendment passed by voters.

Important Women's Organizations and Individual Women

- **Abigail Scott Duniway:** Abigail Scott Duniway established a weekly human-rights newspaper, *The New Northwest*, advocating for women's suffrage. She protested by trying to vote in the 1872 president election and challenged it in court, co-founded the Oregon State Women Suffrage Association, and wrote the Oregon Woman Suffrage Proclamation in 1912.
- **Hattie Redmond:** Hattie Redmond participated in the Oregon Colored Women's Council. It became the Oregon Colored Women's Club, and she was elected President. She organized meetings and lectures on women's suffrage at African American churches and organizations and served on the statewide 1912 Central Campaign Committee which promoted women's suffrage to black men.

Sources

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Women's Suffrage

SOUTH DAKOTA

U.S. Territory: 1861

Statehood: 1889

Partial Suffrage: 1883 school elections

Full Suffrage: 1918



How

- **1872-1875:** The first women's suffrage campaign in Dakota Territory was in 1872, resulting in legislation for full suffrage which did not pass the territorial legislature. The governor vetoed a second attempt.
- **1883:** Women in the Dakota Territory won partial suffrage and could vote in school elections.
- **1889:** South Dakota became a state. The constitution did not include women's suffrage but did require the legislature to send a constitutional amendment for state suffrage to the voters (a referendum). The South Dakota Equal Suffrage Association was formed to rally support, but voters did not pass the state amendment.
- **1890-1910:** Suffrage amendments failed to pass the legislature and voters.
- **1911:** Organizers formed the South Dakota Universal Franchise League and started a newspaper called the *South Dakota Messenger* to advocate for women's rights.
- **1913-1918:** Voters did not approve women's suffrage amendments.
- **1918:** Anti-immigrant attitudes rose because of World War I, and the South Dakota Legislature passed the Citizenship Amendment. The amendment added a U.S. citizenship requirement for voting, disqualifying many immigrants. It also removed the word 'male,' resulting in full women's suffrage. Voters approved the South Dakota Citizenship Amendment, and women won full suffrage in the state.

Important Women's Organizations and Individual Women

- **Alice Alt Pickler:** Alice Alt Pickler was president of the South Dakota Equal Suffrage Association from 1900 to 1909, served on the executive board of the American Woman Suffrage Association, and spoke in front of the U.S. Congress in support of a national suffrage amendment.
- **Mary ("Mamie") Shields:** Mary Shields formed the South Dakota Universal Franchise League after a suffrage referendum was voted down and changed the suffrage movement's strategy to separate suffrage from prohibition. She campaigned in 1914, 1916, 1918, and helped win suffrage in 1918.

Sources

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- <https://libguides.usd.edu/c.php?g=753247&p=5394871>

Women's Suffrage

TEXAS

Statehood: 1845

Partial Suffrage: 1918 presidential elections

Full Suffrage: 1920 with 19th Amendment passage



How

- **1869:** The Texas Constitutional Convention revised the state constitution in order to rejoin the Union after the Civil War. While the Convention abolished slavery and made secession illegal, it rejected proposals for women's suffrage, as did later constitutional conventions.
- **1893-1916:** The Texas Equal Rights Association formed in 1893 as the first statewide woman's suffrage organization in Texas. After its decline, the Texas Woman Suffrage Association was formed. It, too, declined until 1916; it was renamed the Texas Equal Suffrage Association.
- **1895-1915:** The Texas Legislature considered bills supporting women's suffrage, none of which passed.
- **1918:** Women won partial suffrage and could vote in primary elections and nominating conventions which narrow down the candidates running for office in a general election. Primary suffrage was limited to those who were citizens and was questioned in the courts but women's suffrage in presidential primaries was ruled constitutional.
- **1919-1920:** Texas became the ninth state to ratify the 19th Amendment in 1919. In 1920, the required number of states ratified the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and state and national suffrage was won.

Important Women's Organizations and Individual Women

- **Annette Finnigan:** Annette Finnigan helped found the Equal Suffrage League of Houston and the Texas Woman Suffrage Association (TWSA) and was elected President of the TWSA. Her efforts led to a proposed state constitutional amendment for women's suffrage in 1915, but it failed.
- **Minnie Fisher Cunningham:** Minnie Fisher Cunningham was President of the Galveston Equal Suffrage Association and eventually President of the TWSA. Cunningham was re-elected as President for the life of the organization. She was instrumental in getting support for Texas women's suffrage in 1918.

Sources

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- <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/lobbyexhibits/struggles-women>

Women's Suffrage

UTAH

U.S. Territory: 1850

Statehood: 1896

Full Suffrage: 1870; revoked in 1887; restored 1895



How

- **1847:** Members of the Latter-day Saints Church (LDS), Mormons, settled in what would become the Utah Territory. Women participated in voting in church matters.
- **1870:** Mormons practiced polygamy, or multiple wives. Anti-polygamists thought in giving women the right to vote, women would vote against polygamy. Mormon men thought in giving women the right to vote, it would show polygamy did not oppress women. The Utah Territorial Legislature passed a bill for women's suffrage.
- **1887:** Anti-polygamy and anti-women's suffrage bills followed the 1870 suffrage law. Utah women protested and petitioned, but the U.S. Congress passed the Edmunds-Tucker Act in 1887, banning polygamists from voting, holding office, or serving on juries. The voting ban was extended to all women.
- **1888:** Utah suffrage associations formed to win back the vote including the Woman Suffrage Association of Utah.
- **1890:** The LDS Church ended the practice of polygamy, and the U.S. Congress passed an act allowing Utah to apply to become a state, requiring a new state constitution to be drafted.
- **1895:** Suffragists campaigned to make women's suffrage part of the new state Constitution. Voters approved the new constitution and women's suffrage in 1895, and Utah became a suffrage state in 1896.

Important Women's Organizations and Individual Women

- **Emmeline B. Wells:** Emmeline B. Wells was part of the Latter-day Saints Church Women's Relief Society and wrote and edited in their bimonthly newsletter, *Woman's Exponent*. She was elected vice president of the National Woman Suffrage Association and founded the Women's Suffrage Association of Utah, helping to restore women's suffrage in 1896.
- **Emily S. Richards:** Emily S. Richards co-founded the Utah Woman Suffrage Association, built suffrage coalitions with women's charity and educational organizations, represented Utah at national suffragist and international women's conventions, and fought to win equal suffrage in the Utah state constitution.

Sources

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- <https://www.utahwomenshistory.org/2018/02/receiving-losing-and-winning-back-the-vote-the-story-of-utah-womens-suffrage/>
- https://www.uen.org/utah_history_encyclopedia/w/WOMENS_SUFFRAGE_IN_UTAH.shtml

Women's Suffrage

WASHINGTON

U.S. Territory: 1853

Statehood: 1889

Partial Suffrage: 1871 school elections

Full Suffrage: 1883; revoked in 1888; 1910



How

- **1854:** The Washington Territorial Legislature considered the question of women's suffrage, but it failed the legislature by one vote.
- **1867:** The Washington Territorial Legislature removed "male" from the voting laws. Despite this, when some women went to vote, they were prohibited from doing so.
- **1871:** Washington's first women's suffrage convention was held, the Washington Woman Suffrage Association established, and a state suffrage amendment presented to the legislature. It failed, and the legislature passed an anti-suffrage act denying women the vote. An act on qualifications for voting in school district elections did not mention male or female, allowing women to vote in school elections.
- **1883-1888:** The Washington Territorial Legislature passed a bill for women's suffrage (1883), but the Washington Territorial Supreme Court overturned the law on a technicality (1887).
- **1888-9:** Suffragists fought for women's suffrage at Washington's Constitutional Convention, but it failed. Washington became a state.
- **1905:** The National American Woman Suffrage Association held a convention in Portland, Oregon, reviving the suffrage movement in Washington. Membership of the Washington Equal Suffrage Association went from 2 to 2,000.
- **1909-1910:** Suffragists submitted an amendment focusing on voter qualifications to the Washington Legislature. It passed and was signed by the Governor. In 1910, male voters ratified the woman suffrage amendment with a vote of 52,299 in favor and 29,676 against.

Important Women's Organizations and Individual Women

- **Mary Olney Brown:** Mary Olney Brown cast her vote under a Washington Territorial law granting women's suffrage, but her vote was not accepted. She continued to protest by trying to vote and rallied other women to do the same. Mary also called for a Washington Territorial Suffrage Association Convention, wrote for equality, and pushed for suffrage at the 1878 Territorial Constitutional Convention.
- **Emma Smith Devoe:** Emma Smith Devoe helped Idaho win suffrage, campaigned in Oregon, and revived the suffrage movement in Washington. She was president of the Washington Equal Suffrage Association and pushed the Washington State Legislature to pass a woman's suffrage amendment.

Sources

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- <https://content.lib.washington.edu/exhibits/suffrage/>

Women's Suffrage

WYOMING

U.S. Territory: 1868

Statehood: 1890

Full Suffrage: 1868



How

- **1868:** The U.S. Wyoming Territory was formally established with the right to vote for male citizens despite race. The Congressional Act said that the legislature could make additional laws.
- **1869:** Women won suffrage during the first Wyoming Territorial Legislature. In addition to full suffrage, women won equal pay for female teachers and for married women's right to property separate from their husbands.
- **1870:** Louisa Swain was the first woman to cast a vote in the general election in Laramie, Wyoming, and the first woman in the U.S. to use her full right to vote.
- **1871:** The Wyoming Territorial Legislature passed a bill repealing women's suffrage. The governor vetoed it. The House chamber overrode the veto, but the Senate chamber did not, and women's suffrage was guaranteed.
- **1890:** Wyoming applied for U.S. statehood and confirmed women's suffrage at the state constitutional convention.
- **1871-94:** Wyoming was a state of "firsts" for American women: the first U.S. female justice of the peace, the first all-female jury, the first woman bailiff in the world, and the first Superintendent of Public Instruction in the U.S.

Important Women's Organizations and Individual Women

- **Theresa Jenkins:** Suffragist and temperance orator Theresa Jenkins delivered a key address at Wyoming's statehood celebration on July 23, 1890. She spoke widely in Colorado and other states, promoting Wyoming's example in women's rights, and spoke at the 1920 Women's Christian Temperance Union's World Convention in London.
- **Inez Milholland:** Turning heads and changing minds, Inez Milholland helped galvanize women nationwide in their long campaign for the vote. Years of persistent demonstrations—sometimes violently opposed—culminated in 1916, in a final speaking tour across Wyoming and the West just weeks before her early death.

Sources

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- <https://www.wyohistory.org/encyclopedia/right-choice-wrong-reasons-wyoming-women-win-right-vote>