



19 Facts About the 19th Amendment

*Presented by Betsy Ruffin to Johnson County Republican Women
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1. Which lady encouraged her husband to "Remember the ladies"?

Martha Washington, Abigail Adams, Martha Jefferson

Abigail Adams - In a letter dated March 31, 1776, [Abigail Adams](#) writes to her husband, [John Adams](#), urging him and the other members of the Continental Congress not to forget about the nation's women when fighting for [America's independence](#) from Great Britain.

2. Which woman started a group opposed to women's suffrage?

Margaret Sanger, Josephine Dodge, Alice Paul

Josephine Jewell Dodge - For a while, she was the president of the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage. "Her message really was about the damage to the reform potential of women that she believed woman suffrage would bring — through women's integration into the 'corrupt' world of party politics."

3. Who was the first woman to address a House committee?

Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Victoria Woodhull

Victoria Woodhull - January 11, 1871 - Flanked by suffragists Susan B. Anthony and Isabella Beecher Hooker, Woodhull declared before the committee that the 14th and 15th Amendments implicitly granted women the right to vote.

4. In what year did Susan B. Anthony illegally vote in the presidential election?

1868, 1872, 1876

1872 - On November 5, she and 14 other women cast their ballots in the presidential race between Ulysses S. Grant and Horace Greeley, fully aware that their actions were technically illegal. The pioneering suffragist was later singled out, arrested and charged with voting unlawfully. Her trial took place the following June.

Now, almost 150 years after Anthony's arrest, President Donald Trump has announced plans to posthumously pardon the activist.

5. When Susan B. Anthony first proposed the amendment, it was as what number?

16, 17, 18

16 (revision of) - Initially introduced to Congress in 1878 by Senator A.A. Sargent of California, the Susan B. Anthony Amendment proposed a revision of the sixteenth amendment (Weatherford 129). The revision read: 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. (Weatherford 129).

6. What year was a universal suffrage amendment first proposed in Congress?

1878, 1908, 1919

1868 - As Congress debates the nation's postwar reconstruction, Senator Samuel Pomeroy (R-KS) introduces S. Res. 180, a constitutional amendment: "The basis of suffrage in the United States shall be that of citizenship, and all native or naturalized citizens shall enjoy the same rights and privileges of the elective franchise...." Three days later, the Senate agrees to let Pomeroy's bill "lie upon the table."

1878 - Senator Aaron Sargent (R-CA) introduces S. Res. 12, providing for woman suffrage: "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 Senate refers the so-called Susan B. Anthony Amendment to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. The following day, suffragists testify for the first time before senators on the issue of woman suffrage

7. In what year did the House first pass the amendment?

1917, 1918, 1919

January 10, 1918 - On this day, in the midst of World War I, the House passed a constitutional amendment granting women the right to vote by a count of 274 to 136. Representative [Jeannette Rankin](#) of Montana who, a year earlier, had become the first woman to serve in Congress, implored her colleagues to support the legislation.

8. What date was the amendment actually passed?

1919: April 4, May 4, June 4

June 4 - Senate - After 41 years of debate, the Senate finally approves a constitutional amendment to provide for woman suffrage, 56-25.

May 21 - House - Despite opposition, the suffrage bill passed the House by a large margin, 304 to 89.

9. What was the first state to ratify it?

New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin

Wisconsin - On June 10, 1919, the [Wisconsin](#) legislature voted in favor of ratification, with only two assemblymen and one senator voting against it. Although [Illinois](#) had voted for ratification earlier in the day, an administrative error meant that they had to redo the vote a week later. That made Wisconsin the first across the finish line in the race to ratification.

10. What was the last state to ratify it?

Florida, Maryland, Mississippi

Mississippi - March 22, 1920 - Mississippi -- 64 years late -- has officially sanctioned women's right to vote in what legislators called a 'housekeeping measure.'

The all-male Senate, without dissent or debate, gave its unanimous approval Thursday to a House-passed resolution ratifying the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which became the law of the land in August 1920.

11. What state's ratification made the amendment law?

Arizona, Oklahoma, Tennessee

Tennessee - After a long series of victories, the defeats in Delaware and Louisiana brought final ratification perilously close to failure. Tennessee was meeting in special session to consider the amendment and Suffrs and Antis marshalled their forces at the capitol in Nashville, staying at the nearby [Hermitage Hotel](#)...yellow roses worn by the Suffrs, red for the Antis. The Senate had voted to ratify, so it was up to the House. The vote was on August 18, and it looked like there were enough red roses on the House floor for the amendment to go down. One member wearing a red rose in his lapel, [Harry Burn](#), thought of the letter in his pocket from his mother, Pheobe (nicknamed "Febb"), who had written, "Dear Son... Hurray and vote for suffrage and don't keep them in doubt... Don't forget to be a good boy..." Harry cast the tie-breaking vote for the amendment. With this, Tennessee became the 36th state and the amendment had passed the threshold for ratification by three-fourths of the states. It was on its way to Washington to be certified as the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

12. When did Texas ratify the amendment?

1919: June 28, July 28, August 28

June 28 - Texas became the ninth state to ratify the amendment on June 28, 1919. [Texas](#) was also the first southern state to vote in favor of the national suffrage amendment, a significant victory since resistance to woman suffrage had been particularly strong in the [south](#). In 1918, Texas women had won the right to vote in primary elections. The Texas legislature had also passed a resolution in January 1919 to amend the Texas state constitution allowing women to vote in all elections. When the state amendment was put to Texas voters in the May 1919 general election, it had been defeated. Texas women were unable to vote in that general election but with the state's ratification of the 19th amendment, they and women across the country were now one step closer to full enfranchisement.

13. Delegates to the Texas Constitution Conventions first debated enfranchising women in what year?

1868, 1872, 1876

1868 - The question of women's voting rights was raised during the Texas [Constitutional Convention of 1868–69](#) when [Titus H. Mundine](#) of Burleson County proposed that the franchise be conferred upon qualified persons without distinction of sex. The committee on state affairs approved this proposal, but the convention rejected it by a vote of fifty-two to thirteen.

14. Which was the only color used by all the US suffrage organizations?

Gold Purple White

Gold - While gold was the only color used by all US suffrage organizations (though white also became widely adopted once parades started), the purple, white, and gold combination was used only by the National Woman's Party in the United States. The organization described the meaning of these colors in a newsletter published December 6, 1913: "Purple is the color of loyalty, constancy to purpose, unswerving steadfastness to a cause. White, the emblem of purity, symbolizes the quality of our purpose; and gold, the color of light and life, is as the torch that guides our purpose, pure and unswerving." [3, 4]

15. Who gave the "Ain't I a Woman" speech at the 1851 Women's Rights Convention held in Akron, Ohio?

Ida B Wells, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman

Sojourner Truth - At the 1851 Women's Rights Convention held in Akron, Ohio, Sojourner Truth delivered what is now recognized as one of the most famous abolitionist and women's rights speeches in American history, "Ain't I a Woman?" She continued to speak out for the rights of African Americans and women during and after the Civil War.

(Whether the phrase, "Ain't I a Woman" was actually used is the subject of some debate due to differences in two manuscripts)

16. What Texas born Mexican American journalist wrote in favor of women's suffrage?

Jovita Idár, Adina de Zavala, Carolina Malpica Munguía

Jovita Idár - Idár wrote an article for La Crónica supporting women's suffrage and encouraging women to vote. Idár and her brothers began to advocate for women's rights and continued to write about women's suffrage in a positive light. In October of 1911, she founded and became the first president of La Liga Feminil Mexicaista (the League of Mexican Women). This feminist organization started their activism by providing education for Mexican-American students.

17. Which official certified the ratification?

President, Vice President, Secretary of State

Secretary of State - August 26, 1920 - Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby certified the ratification on August 26, 1920, changing the face of the American electorate forever.

18. Which was the first major political party to support women's suffrage?

Democrat, Republican, Bull Moose

Republican (of course) - The Republican Party pioneered the right of women to vote and was consistent in its support throughout the long campaign for acceptance. It was the first major party to advocate equal rights for women and the principle of equal pay for equal work.

19. Actual text of 19th Amendment:

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. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

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