

Women's Suffrage Timeline (1848-1920)

1848	Seneca Falls, New York is the location of the first Women's Rights Convention. Elizabeth Cady Stanton writes "The Declaration of Sentiments" creating the agenda of women's activism for decades to come.
1850-1860	Women's Rights Conventions are held in multiple states, including West Chester (1852) and Philadelphia (1854), Pennsylvania.
1861-1865	During the Civil War, efforts for the suffrage movement came to a halt and women put their energy towards emancipation and the war effort.
1867	Abolitionists and women's rights activists join to form the American Equal Rights Association (AERA)
1868	The Fourteenth Amendment is ratified, granting citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States and declaring that male citizens over age twenty-one should be able to vote.
1869	AERA splits into 2 organizations over support of 15 th Amendment forming the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA) and the American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA). The Pennsylvania Woman Suffrage Association (PWSA) is also formed
1870	The Fifteenth Amendment passes giving black men the right to vote.
1872	Susan B. Anthony and others vote in the presidential election. They are arrested and brought to trial.
1876	Women protest at the official Independence Day Centennial program at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, presenting a "Declaration of Rights for Women".
1878	A woman suffrage amendment is proposed in the U.S. Congress. When the 19 th Amendment passes forty-one years later, the wording is unchanged.
1890	NWSA and AWSA merge and the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) is formed.
1896	Mary Church Terrell and Ida B. Wells-Barnett among others form the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs (NACW).
1900	Carrie Chapman Catt assumes leadership of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA)
1913	A women's suffrage march is held in Washington D.C. on March 3, 1913, the day before Woodrow Wilson's Inauguration.
1915	Pennsylvania rejects a ballot referendum for woman suffrage.
1917	National Woman's Party (NWP) picketers, named the "silent sentinels", appear in front of the White House.
1918	President Woodrow Wilson states his support for a federal woman suffrage amendment and urges Congress to pass the amendment.
1919	Congress passes the Nineteenth Amendment and the ratification process begins.
August 26, 1920	Three quarters of state legislatures ratify the Nineteenth Amendment. American Women win full voting rights.

Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions Women's Rights Convention, Seneca Falls, NY July 1848

Summary of Grievances

- Married women were legally dead in the eyes of the law.
- Women were not allowed to vote.
- Women had to submit to laws when they had no voice in their formation.
- Married women had no property rights.
- Husbands had legal power over and responsibility for their wives to the extent that they could imprison or beat them with impunity.
- Divorce and child custody laws favored men, giving no rights to women.
- Women had to pay property taxes although they had no representation in the levying of these taxes.
- Most occupations were closed to women and when women did work they were paid only a fraction of what men earned.
- Women were not allowed to enter professions such as medicine or law.
- Women had no means to gain an education since no college or university would accept women students.
- With only a few exceptions, women were not allowed to participate in the affairs of the church.
- Women were robbed of their self-confidence and self-respect, and were made totally dependent on men.