

Belmont-Paul Women's Equality



Alice Paul celebrates Nineteenth Amendment, 1920
NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

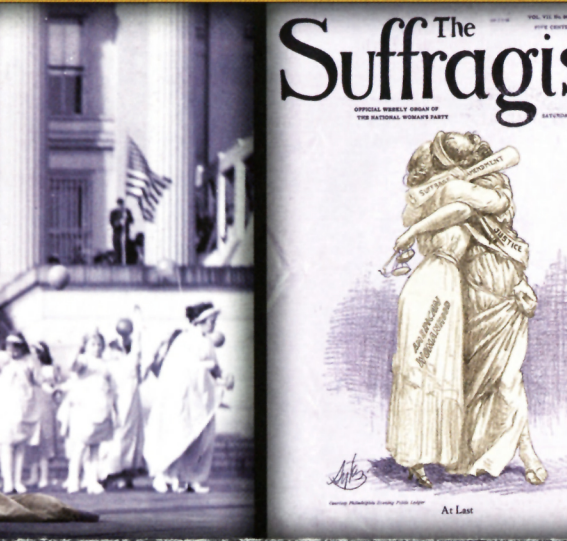


Suffragists hike from New York City to Washington, DC, 1913
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



TO ASK FREEDOM
FOR WOMEN IS NOT
A CRIME
SUFFRAGE PRISONERS
SHOULD NOT BE TREATED
AS CRIMINALS

Mary Winsor, 1917
NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY



The Suffragist, 1919
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"Silent Sentinels" at the White House, 1917
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ELIZABETH CADY STANTON
BOTH—NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

SUSAN B. ANTHONY

“Forward through the Darkness”

Quoted headlines are from a banner by Inez Milholland, 1911

Before August 26, 1920, millions of women in the United States did not have the right to vote. States could use sex as a reason to restrict or refuse women voters because there was no federal law to stop them. Women's suffragists, including Alice Paul and Alva Belmont, wanted to change this.

They deployed a bold strategy, even though it risked their freedom, health, and safety. Their persistence led to the Nineteenth Amendment. The Nineteenth Amendment did not give women equal rights. It did not stop discrimination against women of color, who were often denied the right to vote. It did help light the way for civil rights and equality movements in the United States and the world.

REMEMBERING THE LADIES

ALVA BELMONT (1853–1933) used her resources and influence to advance the women's movement. A long-serving NWP president, she was key to NWP's purchase of the Sewall House in 1929.

ALICE PAUL (1885–1977) grew up in a Quaker home where values of equality and dedication to a divinely inspired “concern” shaped her pursuits. Paul committed her life to the fight for women's equality.

THE MARCH FOR SUFFRAGE Before Ratification

Nine states (*in gold*) had given women full voting rights. In the Alaska territory, white women could vote by 1913. On June 4, 1919, Congress passed the Women's Suffrage Amendment, then sent it to the states for ratification.

Approval was needed from 36 of the 48 states.



Inez Milholland leads the Woman Suffrage Procession, 1913.
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The Woman Suffrage Procession marches in front of the US Capitol, 1913.
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Ida B. Wells (right) with the Illinois delegation, 1913
CHICAGO TRIBUNE



On November 14, 1917, Lucy Burns and others faced a “Night of Terror” at Virginia's Occoquan Workhouse. Nearly 40 guards grabbed, dragged, chained up, punched, kicked, pinched, choked, and beat the suffragists until they were unconscious.
NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

LUCY BURNS
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

IDA B. WELLS (1862–1931) was a key advocate for racial equality who exposed violent injustices against African Americans. She believed women's suffrage would lead to full citizenship for all African Americans.

INEZ MILHOLLAND (1886–1916) worked closely with Alice Paul as a leading member of the NWP. A prominent figure in the women's movement, she died in California during an NWP speaking tour for women's suffrage.

ROSE WINSLOW (1889–1977), born Ruza Wenclawska, was a Polish immigrant, US factory worker, and trade union organizer. She joined the NWP to campaign for women's suffrage and labor rights, braving force-feedings while in jail.

LUCY BURNS (1879–1966) met Alice Paul in the United Kingdom while campaigning for women's suffrage. There, they learned civil disobedience tactics. A CU and NWP founder, Burns edited *The Suffragist* from 1914–17.

Ratification

On August 18, 1920, Tennessee was the 36th state to ratify the amendment. The Nineteenth Amendment went into effect on August 26, 1920.
STARS—LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



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.—Nineteenth Amendment



New York suffrage parade, 1915
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

After Ratification

Decades pass before all 48 states ratify the amendment.

Connecticut, Vermont, Delaware 1923
Maryland 1941
Virginia 1952
Alabama 1953
Florida, South Carolina . . 1969
Georgia, Louisiana 1970
North Carolina 1971
Mississippi 1984

The word “people” has been turned and twisted to mean boys instead of girls, white instead of black.

Mary Church Terrell, 1912



Mary Church Terrell
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; DELTA SIGMA THETA—MOORLAND-SPRINGARN RESEARCH CENTER, HOWARD UNIVERSITY ARCHIVE

“Forward Out of Error”

Activist Mary Church Terrell (*right*) said African American women bear a “double burden” of race and sex. As one of few African Americans active with NAWSA, Terrell advocated for racial unity in the women's suffrage movement. Worried about losing support from southern states, NAWSA let African Americans “march if they cared to” in the March 3, 1913, Woman Suffrage Procession but limited and controlled their presence. Terrell marched with Howard University's Delta Sigma Theta (*above right*), the only African American organization in the procession,

placed in the back with student groups. Ida B. Wells of Chicago (*left*) was told to march at the back of the procession with the “colored delegation.” Instead, Wells waited with spectators until her state delegation passed by; then, she stepped out and marched with the whites of Illinois. Despite the Nineteenth Amendment, states continued to use literacy tests, poll taxes, and residency requirements to disenfranchise women of color. African American women secured their right to vote through the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965.

“Forward into Light”

I never doubted that equal rights was the right direction. Most reforms, most problems, are complicated. But to me there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality.

Alice Paul, 1972

Alice Paul portrait by Sandra Faulstich Harris, 2013
NPS/USA SULLIVAN

THE PATH TO EQUAL RIGHTS

1920s–60s

June 12, 1921 NWP successfully campaigns to pass America's first statewide equal rights law.

September 25, 1921 NWP begins campaign for a federal amendment to give women and men rights “equal in every way.” With American Civil Liberties Union co-founder Crystal Eastman, Paul writes the first version in 1922.

Opponents include Carrie Chapman Catt, of NAWSA's successor the League of Women Voters, and Mary Anderson, first director of the United States Women's Bureau (1920–44). Some say the proposed amendment could negatively affect working class women and excludes African American women.

1923 Paul revises and renames the amendment for Lucretia Mott, an

organizer of the first Woman's Rights Convention at Seneca Falls (1848).

1943 Paul revises the ERA again to its current version, also called the Alice Paul Amendment. A counter-proposal making exceptions for “biological differences, physical structure, and social function” based on sex gets little support.

1970s–2020s

October 12, 1971 The US House of Representatives passes ERA.

March 22, 1972 The US Senate passes ERA and requires 38 of the 50 states to ratify it within 7 years. The first state to ratify is Hawaii. A year later, 30 states have ratified.

Conservative activist Phyllis Schlafly campaigns to stop ERA, claiming it would remove women's sex-based

The Nineteenth Amendment was a momentous achievement, but women still faced sex discrimination, unequal treatment, and harassment. Laws on property, citizenship, marriage, labor, and pay continued to limit women's rights and potential. For women of color, discrimination was twofold.

With Alva Belmont's support, Alice Paul reactivated the National Woman's

Party (NWP) to take up the cause of full equality for women. While the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was debated, the NWP pushed for legal reforms, recruited female political candidates, and lobbied for Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which prohibits sex-based and other employment discrimination.

Paul also founded the World Woman's Party (1938–54) to advocate for equal rights and end sex-based discrimination worldwide. Her achievements and drive inspire the ongoing work for women's rights and equality.

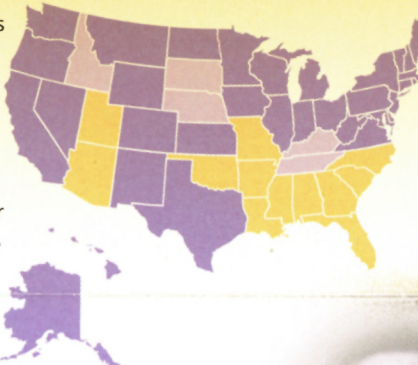
An August 27, 1977, ERA march banner shows the amendment's current text.
DC PUBLIC LIBRARY, STAR COLLECTION © WASHINGTON POST

The ERA Today

October 6, 1978 Congress revises the deadline to June 30, 1982.

June 30, 1982 Ratification falls three states short.

January 15, 2020 Virginia is the 38th state to ratify the ERA, after Nevada (2017) and Illinois (2018). Legal challenges to the validity of the deadlines and rescissions are ongoing.



States that have not ratified ERA
Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah

States that rescinded ratification
Idaho, Kentucky, Nebraska, South Dakota, Tennessee



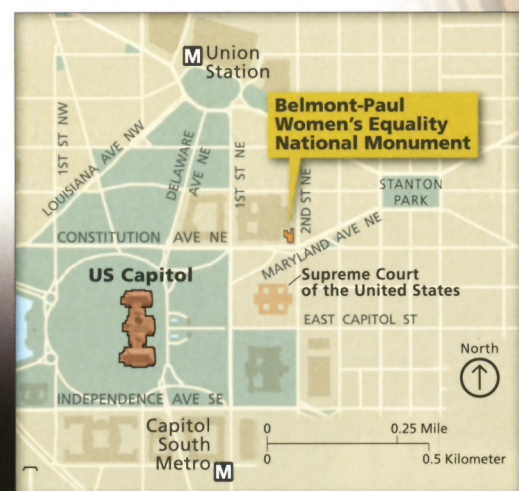
JEANNETTE RANKIN (1880–1973) First woman in the US Congress. Represented Montana in the House of Representatives. Today, a record number of women serve.
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



BERTHA K. LANDES (1868–1943) First woman mayor of a major US city (Seattle) and one of the first two women on its city council.
SEATTLE MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES

CONDOLEEZZA RICE (1954–) First African American woman secretary of state. First woman national security advisor.
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

PATSY MATSU TAKEMOTO MINK (1927–2002) First woman of color elected to US Congress. First Asian American to seek presidential nomination. Co-authored Title IX amendment of Higher Education Act.
COLLECTION OF THE US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



HOURS The park is open Wednesday through Sunday 9 am to 5 pm. There is no fee to enter the park. Guided museum tours are offered



Now home to the park, this historic building has also been the NWP's headquarters since 1929.

NPS

“Leave Behind the Night”

Alva Belmont, Alice Paul, and the National Woman's Party are among many trailblazers of the women's movement. Since the Nineteenth Amendment, America and the world have made great strides for women's rights. Today, the path forward for women's equality continues—redefining society and inspiring future generations.



MARGARET CHASE SMITH (1897–1995) First woman from Maine in US Congress. First woman to serve in both houses of US Congress.
COLLECTION OF THE US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN (1952–) First Cuban American and first Latina elected to US Congress.
FLORIDA POLITICS



SHIRLEY CHISHOLM (1924–2005) First African American woman elected to Congress. First African American to run for presidential nomination of a major US political party.
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

RUTH BADER GINSBURG (1933–) Legal advocate for women's rights and gender equality. US Supreme Court justice.
COLLECTION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES



HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON (1947–) Legal advocate for women and children. First woman presidential nominee of a major US political party.
WILLIAM J. CLINTON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY/SHARON FARMER



SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR (1930–) First woman justice on US Supreme Court.
NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, GIFT OF THE PORTRAIT PROJECT, INC.



NANCY PELOSI (1940–) First woman speaker of the US House of Representatives.



GERALDINE FERRARO (1935–2011) First woman vice presidential candidate for a major US political party.
NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY/DIANA WALKER, GIFT OF TIME MAGAZINE



BARBARA MIKULSKI (1936–) Longest-serving woman in US Congress. Maryland's longest-serving US senator.
© DREW ANGERER/STRINGER

*We're half the people.
We should be half the Congress.*

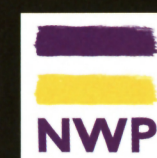
Jeannette Rankin

Percentage of women in US Congress



Percentage of men in US Congress

The park is operated in a public-private partnership between the National Park Service and the National Woman's Party, which is committed to preserving the legacy of Alice Paul, a founder of the NWP and an author of the Equal Rights Amendment, and telling the untold stories for the benefit of scholars, current and future generations of Americans, and all the world's citizens.



www.nationalwomansparty.org

Front hallway
NPS

National Park Foundation
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www.nationalparks.org

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