

The 19th Amendment

A Brief History

Ratified on August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted American women the right to vote, a right known as women's suffrage.



1849

After the 1848 Women's Rights Convention came the 1849 First National Women's Rights Convention where more than 1,000 participants were in attendance; participants such as Frederick Douglass, Paulina Wright Davis, Abby Kelley Foster, William Lloyd Garrison, Lucy Stone and Sojourner Truth are in attendance.



1877

Introduction of the Woman Suffrage Amendment into Congress. The language used here would eventually turn into the wording used for the 19th Amendment to the Constitution



1890

The National Women Suffrage Association and the American Women Suffrage Association merge to form the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton. As the movement's mainstream organization, NAWSA wages state-by-state campaigns to obtain voting rights for women.



1912

Theodore Roosevelt's Bull Moose Party becomes the first national major political party to support women's suffrage



1916

Jeannette Rankin of Montana was the first woman ever elected to the House of Representatives.

1916 was also the year that President Woodrow Wilson stated that the Democratic Party platform would support suffrage.



1920

In 1919, The Woman Suffrage Amendment originally written by Susan B. Anthony that was introduced to Congress in 1878, is passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate. Wisconsin and Illinois are the first states to ratify. Later, Tennessee becomes the 36th state to ratify thus the 19th Amendment to the Constitution is certified as law, granting American women the national right to vote.