

**A TIMELINE OF USA CITIZENSHIP AND WOMEN'S VOTING RIGHTS:
Highlighting Pennsylvania and New Jersey
* With References to Other Nations' Progress ***

NOTE: The following information has not been double-checked

- 1776 *The Declaration of Independence*, dissolving political ties with Great Britain, is drafted in Philadelphia. A free and independent United States of America is born. New Jersey's first Constitution gives voting rights to ALL inhabitants "of full age" who possess 50 £ and have lived there for 12 months.
- 1787 After Americans win independence from Great Britain in the Revolutionary War; another Philadelphia meeting is held to draft a governing plan for the new nation.
- 1789 *The Constitution* is ratified, establishing the new government and granting states the power to set voting requirements. Generally, this results in suffrage for white males who own property or pay taxes: only about 6% of the population!
- 1790 Foreign "free" white persons can become citizens but not necessarily vote.
New Jersey changes its Constitution to read "he or she"; only single women who own property may vote because married women cannot own property.
African-Americans who meet the residency and property requirements can vote.
- 1791 Judith Sargent (1751-1820), wife of Universalist minister John Murray, publishes "**On the Equality of the Sexes**" a year BEFORE Mary Wolstonecraft's renowned *Vindication of the Rights of Women*. "Nature has given men and women the ability to be intellectual equals," Sargent writes, therefore "any inferiority is a result of the culture and not nature."
- 1792 – 1838 Black freedmen LOSE the right to vote in some Northern states, including Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

1792 – 1856 White men who do *not* own property are granted the vote in some states.

1809 New Jersey state legislature restricts voting to tax-paying white male citizens.

NOTE: *In Presidential elections, New Jersey women often voted for the Federalist Party, so eliminating their votes strengthens the Democratic and Republican parties.*

1820s Most states eliminate property qualifications for white men.

1828 Most non-property-holding white males can vote in the presidential election.
Soon universal white male suffrage is established.

1840 Eighty percent of adult white males vote in the presidential election.

1848 First Women's Rights convention is held at Seneca Falls, New York.

1851 Sojourner Truth (1797-1883) delivers her famous "Ain't I a Woman?" speech at the Women's Rights Convention, Old Stone Church in Akron, Ohio.

1853 In May, the Female Anti-Slavery Society—including Mary Grew, *Sojourner Truth*, and Lucretia Mott—meets in Philadelphia. Olympia Brown (1835-1926) is the first woman ordained a Universalist minister with the consent of her denomination. She will join Alice Paul and Lucy Burns in the first struggle, living long enough to see the 19th Amendment passed.-

1855 North Carolina abolishes property-owning law, but in 1860, five states still require tax-paying status of voters—including Pennsylvania.

1866 Frances Ellen Watkins Harper joins the suffrage movement. A freeborn abolitionist and orator, she is one of the first Black women to be published in the US.

1868 *14th Amendment*: all **males** born or naturalized in the US are CITIZENS, but amendment tying suffrage to citizenship for ALL is ignored by the House.

- 1869 Unitarian **Mary Grew** organizes and leads the PA Woman Suffrage Association.
- 1870 *15th Amendment*: states must NOT prevent voting because of the voter's "race, color or previous condition of servitude". Voter's **sex** is *excluded*. BUT former **Confederate states** pass *Jim Crow* laws and require poll taxes, literacy tests, grandfather clauses, etc. to prevent Blacks and poor whites from voting.
- NOTE: *Unfortunately, radical Reconstruction leads to Disenfranchisement as the Supreme Court generally upholds states' efforts to discriminate against racial minorities.*
Although black men in the North can vote, the great majority lives in the South.
- 1872 Susan B. Anthony somehow manages to vote but is found out. She is arrested, tried, and judged guilty.
- 1873 "Women's Christian Temperance Union" establishes campaigns for women's suffrage worldwide; still prevented from voting, the women file lawsuits.
- 1878 A women's suffrage resolution is introduced, but the Senate fails to pass it.
- 1887 *The Dawes Act*: If Native Americans are willing to *disassociate from their tribes* they are permitted to vote.
- NOTE: All Native American tribes are *matrilineal*, "historically and in the clan system".
- Spring 1888 Lucretia Mott (also Unitarian), Ernestine L. Rose, Anna Dickinson, and Mary Grew (now 75 years old) attend the meeting of the International Council of Women celebrating 40th anniv. of Seneca Falls Convention) in Washington DC where President Andrew Johnson calls out "the **Republicans' betrayal of women**".
- 1890 Elizabeth Cady Stanton's and Susan B. Anthony's NWSA merges with Lucy Stone's AWSA to form NAWSA: the National American Woman Suffrage Association.
- Washington D.C. judge Robert Terrell, husband of Mary Church (activist and one of the first Black women to earn a college degree) urges "every man with Negro blood in his veins" to support women's suffrage as a way of "*repaying a debt to those white women who had supported abolition and black male suffrage.*"

- 1895 *First National Conference of the Colored Women of America* is held in Boston. Women attending the conference organize the National Federation of Afro-American Women which will become:
- 1896 **The National Association of Colored Women**, founded by Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, later merging with the National League of Colored Women. This joint session is attended by such *accomplished activists* as Harriet Tubman, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Mary Church Terrell (later to become NACW president), Ida B. Wells Barnett, Josephine S. Yates, and Margaret Murray Washington.
- 1904 “International Woman Suffrage Alliance” is founded in Berlin. Soon women can vote in Germany and ~~--with qualification--~~in Britain.
- 1913 *17th Amendment*: voters can directly elect senators.
- 1916 Alice Stokes Paul and Lucy Burns form the National Woman's Party, a militant organization, to campaign for a national suffrage amendment. Alice Paul had attended Swarthmore College then studied social work in England where she became involved with the Women's Social and Political Union. Her home in Mt. Laurel, NJ is now a historical monument, open to visitors and home to a dynamic women's rights organization.
- March 9, 1917 Two hundred “Silent Sentinels”, including Olympia Brown, picket the White House and are arrested [dramatized in the film *Iron-Jawed Angels – Ed.*]. **Canadian women** are granted voting rights.
- 1918 Countries with majority *Muslim* population begin to grant women voting rights. (Unfortunately, several nations will rescind that vote when repressive leaders come to power. Eventually, Islamic majority countries with more democratic governments will re-establish voting rights for women.)
US House passes Resolution 200 but Senate delays until the 65th Congress ends.
- 1919 Amendment *tying suffrage to citizenship* for ALL Americans is ignored by the House. However, both the House and Senate pass Resolution 1, which will become the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, and it is sent to the states for ratification.
Carrie Chapman Catt becomes president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA).
Women in Austria and the Netherlands are granted the vote.

- Feb. 14, 1920 Six months before the 19th Amendment is ratified, the *National League of Woman Voters* is founded with Maud Wood Park as its first national president.
- 1920 *19th Amendment: women can vote BUT non-white women are hindered by the same restrictions (i.e., **Jane Crow** laws) suffered by non-white men.*
- early 1920s Zitkala-Sa (Gertrude Simmons Bonnin), a Sioux, and Inshata (Suzette LaFleshe Tibbles) an Omaha, lead the effort for all Native Americans to be granted citizenship (more than one-third are still not citizens) AND the right to vote.
- 1923 The National Woman's Political Party proposes the Equal Rights Amendment.
- 1924 **Native Americans** are awarded full citizenship as well as the right to vote *regardless of their tribal affiliation*.
- 1928 "Equal Franchise Act": British women achieve full voting rights.
- 1943 **Chinese immigrants** are given citizenship and voting rights by the Magnuson Act.
- NOTE: *Post-World War II, the United Nations encourages women's suffrage worldwide.*
- 1961 *23rd Amendment: Washington, D.C. residents can vote in presidential elections.*
- 1962 – 1964 Despite Southern states' angry opposition, Justice Earl Warren leads the Supreme Court in creating the landmark nationwide electoral system.
- 1964 *24th Amendment: poll tax is prohibited.*
- 1965* *The Voting Rights Act of 1965 protects voting for racial minorities; eventually, it will protect voting rights for language minorities as well.
The Supreme Court prohibits tax payment and wealth requirements for voting in state elections.*

ADDENDUM A *See final page of this document for **A Woman's Place in 1965**

- 1966 *National Organization for Women* founded when 28 women, including activist Pauli Murray, contribute five dollars each. Gloria Steinem is the first president.
- 1970 Nationwide demonstration for women's rights takes place.
- 1971 The Equal Rights Amendment is approved by the House of Representatives, thanks to the efforts of Bella Abzug, Betty Friedan, and Gloria Steinem.
- 26th Amendment:* 18 to 21 year old adults are granted the right to vote.
- 1972 Senate passes the Equal Rights Amendment; it is sent to the states for ratification.
- 1973 Washington, D.C. residents are permitted to vote in local elections.
- Thanks to Bella Abzug's (D-NY) 1971 proposal, Congress names August 26 ***Women's Equality Day***.
- 1979 "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women" identifies voting as a basic right.
- 1980 Because women are nominally represented in school texts—3% at most—the National Women's History Project is founded in Santa Rosa, CA. The NWHP is instrumental in the designation of March as *National Women's History Month*.
- 1986 "Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act"
- 1996 National Women's History Museum in Alexandria, VA is founded by Karen Staser.
- 1996 – 2008 Felons are permitted to vote in 28 states.
- 2006 President George W. Bush **extends** *The Voting Rights Act of 1965*.
- 2011 *Women are **still** not permitted to vote in some Islamic-majority countries.*

- 2012 The National Women's History Project is expanded into the National Women's History Alliance, "providing information and training in multicultural women's history".
- 2013 Any state/local government that wants to change their voting laws must appeal to the US Attorney General.
- 2017 "Smithsonian American Women's History Museum Act" (S.959) is introduced in the Senate by Susan Collins and Dianne Feinstein.
- Aug. 26, 2017 The first celebration of *Women's Equality Day*
- 2018 Although no bills to create the Museum make it to the Floor for voting, the Smithsonian offers the showcase "American Women's History Initiative".
- 2018 – 2019 Unfortunately, the **Equal Rights Amendment** *fails* to win the necessary percentage of states' ratification—after 47 years!—but an extension is granted.
- Thanks to the ACLU and other social justice organizations, voting rights are expanded to include +2 million people in key states, including re-enfranchising 14 million people with prior convictions.
- 2018 – 2019 The ACLU also wins Supreme Court decision preventing Trump administration from adding a question about citizenship to the 2020 census.
- August 2020 **USG celebrates the 100th anniversary of ALL women's right to vote in the U.S.A.**, representing the "largest expansion of democracy in the history of our country".

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May 17, 2020 / Rev. 5/28 & 6/2

Please note that I have not fact-checked Timeline material djfc

ADDENDUM A

A Woman's Place in 1965

There are only 11 women in Congress, just 2 in the Senate, and NO female governors.

For every dollar men earn, women on average earn 59 cents.

Women can be barred from holding jobs that involve lifting more than 35 pounds.

Abortion is illegal.

It is legal for a husband to rape his wife.

There isn't even a TERM to describe the man who, *in the workplace*:
comments on a female co-worker's breasts;
grabs or slaps her rear end;
fires her because she refuses to have sex with him.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN