

Her-Story of the Vote: Archives Celebrate the Nineteenth Amendment's Centennial

Archives are engaging the public in the history of the right to vote, which at times has excluded many people based on gender, race, and sexual orientation.

CHICAGO, UNITED STATES, August 25, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- "[Votes for Women, Equality is the Sacred Law of Humanity](#)" was a poster plastered across the country more than one hundred years ago when the Women's Suffrage movement was in full swing, culminating in the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment on August 18, 1920, which granted women in the United States their right to vote. That poster is at the Radcliffe Institute's Schlesinger Library at Harvard University, one of many archives across the country commemorating the centennial of this amendment and seeking to raise awareness of continued struggles for equality this year on National Women's Equality Day, celebrated August 26.

Archives, museums, and other organizations are engaging the public in discussions of the history of the right to vote, which at times has excluded many people based on gender, race, and sexual orientation. Thanks to an abundance of letters, photographs, and audio and video footage housed in archival collections, members of the public can learn about this historic movement firsthand from the words and pictures of the people who fought for it.

Here are a few archives and history organizations that are remembering the suffrage centennial via online exhibits, social media, and lesson plans—and that invite you to join in the celebration.

□ The National Archives Museum in Washington, DC, created "Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote," a 3,000-square-foot exhibit that draws from more than 90 documents, photographs, and artifacts in its collection—including the original Nineteenth Amendment, which will be on limited display. [Check out the virtual exhibit](#) led by archivist and curator Corinne Potter. The National Archives also has created a nationwide traveling exhibit (<https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/nates>), pop-up displays for classroom use, and educational resources and lesson plans for educators to incorporate into their curriculum.

□ The Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission was established by Congress in April 2017 "to commemorate and coordinate the nationwide celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment." The non-partisan commission has created a federal legislative tracker (<https://tinyurl.com/y5a2aotw>) to note all suffrage-related congressional legislation, as well as a

chronological list of press releases on suffrage news (<https://www.womensvote100.org/news>), programs, and events.

□ The National Organization of Women (<https://tinyurl.com/NOW-changemakers>) is highlighting past and present “sheroes” via its Sisters in Suffrage website and social media campaign (<https://now.org/sisters-of-suffrage/>). Each day in the 100 days leading up to the anniversary of the vote, NOW has released a new image and biographical sketch that illustrate the extraordinary work of these remarkable and diverse women. The public is encouraged to participate and follow along via social media with the hashtags #sistersinsuffrage, #Celebrating100, #righttovote.

□ The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum is celebrating the centennial via a Google Arts and Culture exhibit about Rosalynn Carter's fight for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA); an article for The Text Message (<https://tinyurl.com/TheTextMessage>), the blog of the National Archives and Records Administration, about President Carter meeting an original suffragist prior to the Alice Paul Memorial March of 1977; and a new interview of Rosalynn Carter by her former daughter-in-law, Judy Langford Carter, about the fight for ERA (<https://tinyurl.com/RosalynCarter>).

□ The Radcliffe Institute's Schlesinger Library at Harvard University has invited researchers, writers, and teachers to create a series of digital teaching modules for its "Suffrage School" (<https://tinyurl.com/SuffrageSchool>). Each lesson connects to the library's Long 19th Amendment Project, tackling the tangled history of gender and American citizenship, and includes a short video in which the instructor shares a primary source from the Schlesinger's collections. Lessons include a link to the digitized documents, questions to guide further reflection, and additional readings.

□ The National Women's History Museum provides a wide variety of lesson plans, modules, downloadable documents, PowerPoints, and videos for educators wanting to integrate the history of Women's Suffrage into their educational curriculums. Each specific lesson plan (<https://tinyurl.com/NWHM-LessonPlans>) is tailored to meet the requirements of students from grades 6 to 12. Additionally, a timeline of the suffrage movement and corresponding educational activities test students' knowledge of the timeline (<https://tinyurl.com/NWHM-timeline>).

□ The National Park Service, through its "20 Suffragists to Know for 2020" profiles (<https://tinyurl.com/20for2020>), spotlights the biographies of diverse women of color, such as Marie Louise Bottineau Baldwin, Dr. Mabel Ping-Hua Lee, Nina Otero-Warren, and Zitkala-Ša, whose work contributed to the passage of the 19th Amendment even as they waged their own battles against racism and discrimination.

Archives contain primary sources such as letters, photographs, and audio and video footage that document the work of early suffragists such as Carrie Chapman Catt, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Minnie Fisher Cunningham, Angelina Weld Grimke, and Ida B. Wells-Barnett. Through these

materials, archivists work to remind the public of the battle for the right to vote. We as archivists challenge you to engage the public and your audience in this history and remember the suffragists' fight for equality.

- - - - -

Founded in 1936, the Society of American Archivists (archivists.org) is North America's oldest and largest national archival professional association. SAA's mission is to serve the educational and informational needs of 6,000 individual and institutional members and to provide leadership to ensure the identification, preservation, and use of records of historical value.

Teresa Brinati
Society of American Archivists
+1 312-606-0722

[email us here](#)

Visit us on social media:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/524791271>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2020 IPD Group, Inc. All Right Reserved.