

Milestones of Voting Rights for Women and Minorities in the U.S. and Dallas, Texas

- 1789:** The Constitution grants the states the power to set voting requirements. Generally, states limited this right to property-owning or tax-paying white males (about 6% of the population).⁶
- 1790:** The Naturalization Act of 1790 allows white men born outside of the United States to become citizens with the right to vote.⁶
- 1792–1838:** Free black males lose the right to vote in several Northern states including in Pennsylvania.⁶ *And source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_suffrage_in_Pennsylvania
- 1792–1856:** Abolition of property qualifications for white men, from 1792 (Kentucky) to 1856 (North Carolina) during the periods of Jeffersonian and Jacksonian democracy. However, tax-paying qualifications remained in five states in 1860 – Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Delaware and North Carolina. They survived in Pennsylvania and Rhode Island until the 20th century.⁶
- 1820: 15 Feb:** Susan B Anthony was born.⁹
- 1841:** North Texas area containing the future Dallas becomes part of Peters Colony, land settlement grant made by the Republic of Texas to American and English investors led by William S. Peters; City founded by John Neely Bryan, who settled on the east bank of the Trinity near a natural ford (November). Two highways, the Central National Highway and the Military Road, proposed by the Republic of Texas soon converged near Dallas.¹⁶
- 1844:** J. P. Dumas surveyed and laid out a town site (for Dallas) comprising a half mile square of blocks and streets.¹⁶
- 1846:** Dallas County formed; Dallas designated as the temporary county seat.¹⁶
- 1848:** A.M.E. churchwomen won the right to preaching licenses.¹⁸
The first women's rights convention is held in Seneca Falls, New York. After 2 days of discussion and debate, 68 women and 32 men sign a Declaration of Sentiments, which outlines grievances and sets the agenda for the women's rights movement. A set of 12 resolutions is adopted calling for equal treatment of women and men under the law and voting rights for women.¹⁹
- 1850:** The first National Women's Rights Convention takes place in Worcester, Mass., attracting more than 1,000 participants. National conventions are held yearly (except for 1857) through 1860.¹⁹ Voters selected Dallas as the permanent county seat over Hord's Ridge (Oak Cliff) and Cedar Springs. Population about 430.¹⁶
23-24 October: National Women's Rights Convention first held in Worcester, MA. was an annual series of meetings that increased the visibility of the early [women's rights](#) movement in the United States. combined both female and male leadership, and attracted a wide base of support including [temperance advocates](#) and [abolitionists](#). Speeches were given on the subjects of equal wages, expanded education and career opportunities, women's property rights, marriage reform and temperance.¹⁴
- 1856:** The Texas legislature granted Dallas a town charter on February 2. Dr. Samuel Pryor, elected the first mayor, headed a town government consisting of six aldermen, a treasurer-recorder, and a constable.¹⁶
- 1860:** (Dallas) Population 678, including ninety-seven African Americans as well as French, Belgians, Swiss, and Germans. On July 8, 1860, a fire originating in the W. W. Peak Brothers Drugstore spread to the other buildings on the square and destroyed most of the businesses. Suspicion fell on slaves and Northern abolitionists; three slaves were hanged, and two Iowa preachers were whipped and run out of town.¹⁶
- 1861:** Dallas voted 741 to 237 to secede from the Union. Dallas selected as one of eleven quartermaster and commissary posts in Texas for the Trans-Mississippi Army of the Confederacy. After the

- war, freed slaves moved to Dallas in search of jobs. They settled in freedmen's towns, which grew in multiple locations around Dallas.¹⁶
- 1863:** Women's Loyal National League established by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony.⁶
- 1866:** AERA (American Equal Rights Association) was created by the Eleventh [National Women's Rights Convention](#), which transformed itself into the new organization. Its purpose was "to secure Equal Rights to all American citizens, especially the right of suffrage, irrespective of race, color or sex." Some of the more prominent reform activists of that time were members, including women and men, blacks and whites.¹³
- 1868:** Citizenship is guaranteed to all persons born or naturalized in the United States by the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, setting the stage for future expansions to voting rights.⁶
- 1869: May:** Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton form the National Woman Suffrage Association. The primary goal of the organization is to achieve voting rights for women by means of a Congressional amendment to the Constitution.¹⁹
- Boston. AWSA (American Woman Suffrage Association) was a [single-issue](#) national organization formed. The AWSA lobbied state governments to enact laws granting or expanding women's right to vote in the United States. Its most prominent leader, [Lucy Stone](#), began publishing a newspaper in 1870 called the [Woman's Journal](#). Designed as the voice of the AWSA, it eventually became a voice of the women's movement as a whole.¹¹ AWSA believed success could be more easily achieved through state-by-state campaigns.¹²
- 15 May:** New York City. NWSA (National Woman Suffrage Association. The National Association was created in response to a split in the [American Equal Rights Association](#) over whether the woman's movement should support the [Fifteenth Amendment](#) to the [United States Constitution](#). Its founders, [Susan B. Anthony](#) and [Elizabeth Cady Stanton](#), opposed the Fifteenth Amendment unless it included women's right to vote. Men were able to join the organization as members; however, women solely controlled the leadership of the group. The NWSA worked to secure women's enfranchisement through a [federal constitutional amendment](#).⁶
- 15 May:** National Woman Suffrage Association (Est. May 15, 1869) and American Woman Suffrage Association (Est. 1869) were merged to form National American Woman Suffrage Association (Est. 1890).¹¹
- November:** Lucy Stone, Henry Blackwell, and others form the American Woman Suffrage Association. This group focuses exclusively on gaining voting rights for women through amendments to individual state constitutions.¹⁹
- 10 December:** The territory of Wyoming passes the first women's suffrage law. The following year, women begin serving on juries in the territory.¹⁹
- 1869–1920:** Some states allow women to vote. Wyoming was the first state to give women voting rights in 1869.⁶
- 1870:** Non-white men and freed male slaves are guaranteed the right to vote by the Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Disenfranchisement after the Reconstruction Era began soon after. Southern states suppressed the voting rights of black and poor white voters through Jim Crow Laws. During this period, the Supreme Court generally upheld state efforts to discriminate against racial minorities; only later in the 20th century were these laws ruled unconstitutional. Black males in the Northern states could vote, but the majority of African Americans lived in the South.⁶
- (Dallas) Population about 3,000.¹⁶
- 1871:** Town of Dallas upgraded to City of Dallas. A new city charter is written.¹⁶
- 1872:** Houston and Texas Central Railroad arrives in Dallas; Dr. Matthew Cornelius appointed first City health officer. First firefighting unit, "Company Number One," established.¹⁶
- 1873:** Texas and Pacific Railroad arrived in Dallas making it one of the first rail crossroads in Texas. Cotton became the region's principal cash crop, and Elm Street in Dallas was its market. Dallas became the world center for the leather and buffalo-hide trade.¹⁶

- 1874:** Gaslight street illumination. (in Dallas).¹⁶
- 1880:** Population 10,385 (Dallas).¹⁶
- 1881:** Telephone service begins in Dallas.¹⁶
- 1882:** Electricity service began in Dallas; first electricity plant opened; City acquired water works from Dallas Hydrant Company.¹⁶
- 1884:** First paved streets in Dallas, laid with bois d'arc blocks.¹⁶
- 1887:** Citizenship is granted to Native Americans who are willing to disassociate themselves from their tribe by the Dawes Act, making the men technically eligible to vote.⁶
- 1889:** First electric streetcars in Dallas.¹⁶
- 1890:** Dallas annexed the neighboring town of East Dallas, which was larger in both land and population than Dallas, on January 1; Dallas ranked as the most populous city in Texas, with 38,067 residents.¹⁶
- The National Women Suffrage Association and the American Women Suffrage Association merge to form the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA). As the movement's mainstream organization, NAWSA wages state-by-state campaigns to obtain voting rights for women.¹⁹
- The AWSA merged with a rival organization, the [National Woman Suffrage Association](#). The new organization, called the [National American Woman Suffrage Association](#), was initially led by [Susan B. Anthony](#) and [Elizabeth Cady Stanton](#), who had been the leaders of the NWSA.¹¹
- 1893:** Colorado is the first state to adopt an amendment granting women the right to vote.¹⁹
- 1894:** (Dallas) Parkland Hospital opened, City-County joint venture.¹⁶
- 1896:** The National Association of Colored Women is formed, bringing together more than 100 black women's clubs. Leaders in the black women's club movement include Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, Mary Church Terrell, and Anna Julia Cooper.¹⁹
- Utah and Idaho adopt an amendment granting women the right to vote.¹⁹
- 1900:** (Dallas) Population 42,638.¹⁶
- 1901:** Dallas Public Library established.¹⁶
- 1902:** (Dallas) First interurban electric lines began operation.¹⁶
- 1903:** The National Women's Trade Union League (WTUL) is established to advocate for improved wages and working conditions for women.¹⁹
- Texas Equal Suffrage Association is formed.⁶
- Texas chapter of National Women's Suffrage Association is formed.²⁰
- 1904:** City of Oak Cliff annexed to the City of Dallas; City purchased Fair Park from its owners in 1904; State Fair of Texas operated by a private organization.¹⁶
- 1906:** **13 Mar:** Susan B Anthony died.⁶
- 1907:** Dallas voters adopted the commission form of city government (Mayor and four commissioners) to replace the alderman system.¹⁶
- 1908:** (Dallas) Disastrous Flood of Trinity River.¹⁶
- 1909:** (Dallas) Kessler Plan developed; White Rock Park acquired; lake created one year later.¹⁶
- 1910:** (Dallas) Population 92,104 by 1910; city doubled in area to 18.31 square miles.¹⁶
- Washington State adopts an amendment granting women the right to vote.¹⁹
- 1911:** California adopts an amendment granting women the right to vote.¹⁹
- 1912:** (Dallas) Houston Street Viaduct opened, billed as "longest concrete bridge in the world"; Dallas Zoo opened in Marsalis Park.¹⁶
- Oregon, Kansas, and Arizona adopt an amendment granting women the right to vote.¹⁹
- Dallas activists formed Suffrage Clubs across the state.²⁰
- 1913:** Direct election of Senators, established by the Seventeenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, gave voters rather than state legislatures the right to elect senators.⁶
- Alaska and Illinois adopt an amendment granting women the right to vote.¹⁹

- 1913:** Alice Paul and Lucy Burns form the Congressional Union to work toward the passage of a federal amendment to give women the vote. The group is later renamed the National Women's Party. Members picket the White House and practice other forms of civil disobedience.¹⁹ Dallas Equal Suffrage Association (DESA) formed. Margaret Bell Houston Kauffman, granddaughter of Sam Houston, was the first president.⁶
- 1913-1917:** Suffrage Day and booth for Dallas Equal Suffrage Association at the Texas State Fair. "...the fair's official ... was a yellow and white banner proclaiming "Votes for Women." Decorating a booth to display posters and charts tracing the progress through the states, the DESA hosted the Texas Equal Suffrage Association's (TESA) programs and activities as the state's suffragists integrated a political issue into this major annual event."³ Norma says photos exist. Information is from book by Enstam, 2002.
- 1914:** Montana and Nevada adopt an amendment granting women the right to vote.¹⁹ Municipal Building (Dallas City Hall 1914-1978) built.¹⁶
28 October: Equal Suffrage Association of Texas holds carriage parade "from the heart of the city to the Fair Grounds" of the State Fair of Texas.³ Dallas was host city for Texas Woman's Suffrage Association Annual Convention at Fair Park.²⁰
- 1915:** (Dallas) City Welfare Department established.¹⁶
- 1916:** Black women vote for president in Chicago, Illinois.²¹ Margaret Sanger opens the first U.S. birth control clinic in Brooklyn, N.Y. Although the clinic is shut down 10 days later and Sanger is arrested, she eventually wins support through the courts and opens another clinic in New York City in 1923.¹⁹ Dallas was host city for Texas Woman's Suffrage Association Annual Convention at Fair Park.²⁰ (Dallas) Union Terminal opened.¹⁶
- 1917:** New York adopts an amendment granting women the right to vote.¹⁹ Dallas votes for Prohibition; saloons close October 20; Love Field is created as US Army pilot training camp.¹⁶
6 April: Jeanette Rankin voted against the war resolution. She was the first woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives as a Republican from Montana in 1916, and again in 1940. She served 2 terms, helping to pass the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote, and was a committed pacifist.⁶
- 1918:** Michigan, South Dakota, and Oklahoma adopt an amendment granting women the right to vote.¹⁹
February: Texas Woman's Suffrage Association delivers 10,000 signatures of support for the Primary Suffrage Bill.²⁰
26 March: The Texas Legislature, in special session, passed a law giving women the right to vote in the primaries and at State Conventions. The law was signed by Gov. William Hobby on March 26, 1918.^{15, 20} (Dallas) Camp Dick, World War I Army training camp, established at Fair Park.¹⁶
- 1919:** The federal woman suffrage amendment, originally written by Susan B. Anthony and introduced in Congress in 1878, is passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate. It is then sent to the states for ratification.²⁹
5 February: Governor Hobby signs a state resolution to amend the Texas State Constitution for full voting rights for women, but it failed.²⁰
24 March: Carrie Chapman Catt proposed the formation of a "league of women voter to 'finish the fight' and to aid in the reconstruction of the nation." The occasion was the 50th Anniversary Jubilee Convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Associate, in St. Louis. In proposed a "fitting commemoration," Catt asked: "What could be more natural than that women who have attained their political independence should desire to give service in token of their gratitude? What could be more appropriate than that such women should do for the coming generation what those of a preceding period did for them?Let us then raise up a league of women voters...: a league that shall be non-partisan and non-sectarian in character..."²²

19 May: The House of Representatives passed the 19th Amendment, 304-90. Opponents blocked action in the Senate for another two weeks, delaying ratification by ensuring that most state legislatures had adjourned for the year.²²

24 May: The law granting Texas women the right to vote in the primaries proved to be so successful that the Texas Legislature, in regular session, passed a bill to amend the Texas constitution to give women the right to vote in all elections. The public vote on May 24, 1919, failed to ratify this amendment. Although this measure failed, the legislature ratified the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution five weeks after the May election, giving women the right to vote.²⁸

4 June: The Senate passed the 19th Amendment, with two votes to spare, 40 years after its first introduction in Congress. From Paris, President Wilson sent a cable of congratulations.²²

4 June: Congress sends the 19th Amendment to states for approval.²³

28 June: Texas ratifies the 19th Amendment. *Source:* LWV TX website “100 Years of Women Voting”...becoming the ninth state overall and the first Southern state to do so.¹⁵

13 October: the *Dallas Morning News* reported that the Dallas Equal Suffrage Association would become the Dallas League of Women Voters. Nora Boren Mahoney was President of DESA. In 1920, she was elected the first president of the Dallas League of Women Voters.⁸

19 October: The League of Women Voters of Texas was formed in San Antonio when the Texas Equal Suffrage Association (Est. 1903) was dissolved to reorganize for a new purpose.¹ Linda Wassenich note: I discovered a discrepancy among the various documents of history of the LWV-TX. Most sources agree that the LWV-TX was founded on October 19, 1919, in San Antonio. One document, “A Potpourri of Texas League History,” in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of Texas, founded October 10, 1919, ed. Diane Sheridan, Austin, TX: April 1995, has the wrong date on its cover sheet. I have repeated that erroneous date in other documents, and it may appear in some LWVD publications. The correct date for when LWV-TX was founded is October 19, 1919.¹⁵

Texas Equal Suffrage Association (Est. 1903) was dissolved to reorganize as The League of Women Voters of Texas on October 19, 1919, in San Antonio. TESA was formed to support white women’s suffrage.^{8, 10}

October. DESA is closed. Last president was Nora Boren Mahoney. She died in Forney in 1926 and is buried at Oakwood Cemetery in Tyler. In the 1920 election “She only woman in the State who was designated to preside over a precinct convention in the May (1920) presidential conventions”.⁷

1920: The Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor is formed to collect information about women in the workforce and safeguard good working conditions for women.¹⁹

(Dallas) Population 158,976; Dallas ranked as the forty-second-largest city in the nation.¹⁶

14 February: The League of Women Voters was officially founded as “a mighty experiment,” at the “Victory Convention” of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in Chicago Illinois. By then 33 states had ratified the suffrage amendment, but final victory was still three states away.²²

14 February: The League of Women Voters U.S. was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt during the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. The convention was held just six months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, on August 26, 1920. Note: Susan B Anthony was born February 15, 1820.⁹

18 August: The 36th state, Tennessee ratifies the 19th Amendment.²³

18 August: Tennessee became the final state to ratify the 19th amendment, after the governor yielded to appeals to call a special session of the legislature. A young state legislator cast the deciding vote after being admonished to do so by his mother.²²

26 August: The 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote, is signed into law by Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby.¹⁹

Women are guaranteed the right to vote in all US States by the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. In practice, the same restrictions that hindered the ability of poor or non-white men to vote now also applied to poor or non-white women.⁶

26 August: 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified.^{9, 17}

26 August: Notice of the final ratification was received by the Secretary of State in Washington at 4:00 a.m., and the Nineteenth Amendment was proclaimed part of the Constitution. Up to that time, no other amendment had taken so long to secure.²²

27 September: (Waco) Tom M. Hamilton filed suit to keep women from voting in the 1920 primary because "... by reason of his effort's against women suffrage that he had incurred the displeasure of women and that all the female voters of the county or a majority of them would cast ballots for his opponent." Judge Monroe threw the case out. (DMN, September 27, 2019)³

19 October: LWV TX formed when the Texas Equal Suffrage Association is dissolved. San Antonio.^{8, 10}

1920: Dallas Morning News articles:^{3,24}

- League of Women Voters to meet in Austin Jan 7 (DMN, January 4, 1920)
- Women reported paying poll taxes DMN (January 8, 1920)
- Women preparing to utilize the ballot (February 29, 1920)
- Women Becoming Political Power - National League of Women Voters has nearly half million members DMN (December 9, 1920)

1921: (Dallas) Station WRR, first municipal radio broadcasting station in America, established.¹⁶ The League supports the Sheppard-Towner Act, which provided federal aid for maternal and childcare programs.¹⁷

11-18 April: The League of Women Voters first annual convention, Cleveland, Ohio.²²

1924: All Native Americans are granted citizenship and the right to vote, regardless of tribal affiliation. By this point, approximately two thirds of Native Americans were already citizens.⁶

1926: (Dallas) Love Field incorporated into the national airmail flight routes.¹⁶ Nora Boren Mahoney (last president of DESA, first president of Dallas LWV?) died in Forney. She was buried at Oakwood Cemetery in Tyler. The obituary notes her participation in 1920 election "She was the only woman in the State who was designated to preside over a precinct convention in the May (1920) presidential conventions."

<http://www.historicforney.org/archive/online-archives/obituaries/nonie-boren-mahoney-obituary/>³

1927: \$23,900 Ulrickson Plan city bond issue approved by referendum; Love Field is purchased by the City as municipal airport; Charles Lindbergh participates in dedication.¹⁶

1928: (Dallas) Ground broken for Trinity River levee and reclamation project.¹⁶

1930: (Dallas) Population 260,475. Citizens Charter Association won voter approval for the council-manager form of city government (nine council places); Cotton Bowl built, seating 46,400.¹⁶

1930: Dallas Morning News articles:^{3, 24}

- The Dallas League of Women Voters meeting at the YWCA to hear a talk on the prison system of Texas. DMN (1/19/1930).
- Texas League of Women Voters forms committee to select nominees to the National League's 10th anniversary memorial project to have "pioneer women to be enrolled and have their names inscribed on the memorial tablet at Washington." DMN (1/30/30).
- Dallas League of Women Voters votes to sell theater tickets to raise money for the "final payment" on a portrait of Woodrow Wilson "bought by the association for the Woodrow Wilson High School". DMN (2/11/30).
- Dallas League of Women Voters votes to oppose Sewer Bond Issue. Also heard a report on child work and welfare. Also made plans to see a film on "Women in Industry". DMN (3/29/30).
- Dallas LWV met to hear a talk on moral improvements in Hollywood movies DMN (4/25/30).
- President of Dallas LWV accepted the chairmanship of the Miriam Ferguson campaign for governor. DMN (9/10/30).

- Dallas LWV asked by Lt. Governor to support constitutional amendments DMN (10/25/30).
- 1931:** Dallas Morning News articles:^{3, 24}
- Dallas League of Women Voters told "the navigation project [of the Trinity River] is a necessity at this time". (DMN 1/30/1931)
 - Dallas League of Women Voters "arranged for support of the election of the best candidates" for the City Council. "Precinct workers to get out the vote were appointed." (DMN, 4/5/1931)
 - League of Women Voters semi-monthly meeting suspended so members could attend Texas Conference of Social Welfare being held in Dallas (DMN 4/23/1931)
- 1932:** City applied jointly with County to Reconstruction Finance Corporation for \$450,000 loan to provide relief work programs.¹⁶
- 1932:** Dallas Morning News articles:^{3, 24}
- Mrs. Charles Sorg [obituary] was a member of the League of Women Voters, Catholic Woman's League, Housewives Chamber of Commerce, Humane Society, Girls Protective League. (DMN 10/14/1932)
- 1933:** Congress establishes the Tennessee Valley Authority to undertake both conservation and multipurpose development of the basin's natural resources. This was the beginning of the League's involvement in environmental issues.¹⁷
- Great Depression put 15,000 Dallasites on relief roles by 1933. City voted to repeal Prohibition.¹⁶
- 1934:** Dallas Morning News articles:^{3, 24}
- Assistant Attorney General wrote letter to Mrs. Libbie Barrett of the Dallas League of Women Voters to clarify issues as to who can vote on the "Centennial bond issue". (DMN 10/24/1934)
- 1936:** (Dallas) Texas Centennial Exposition, held in Fair Park; Triple Underpass completed, linking Main, Commerce, and Elm Streets with Oak Cliff; Dallas Aquarium opened.¹⁶
- 1937:** (Dallas) Pan-American Exposition held at Fair Park; W. W. Samuell estate deeded to City.¹⁶
- 1938:** The League of Women Voters of Dallas began as a branch of the League of Texas. Sixteen women saw that the mission of the League was a way to approach the jar issues of the day that was beyond the partisanship of a political party. The Dallas League began its full year in September 1939 with 60 members.¹
- The first issues studied by the *new* Dallas League included effective administration and appropriations for old age assistance, unemployment compensation, assistance to the blind, and help for dependent children.¹⁷
- LWVD branch of the LWV TX started with 16 women.¹ Mrs. E.L. DeGolyer, president; Mrs. G Abbott, vice president.⁵
- 1939:** First full year of LWVD. 60 members.^{1, 17}
- 1940:** (Dallas) Population 294,734.¹⁶
- 1941:** (Dallas) Farmers Market (established 1939) became City entity.¹⁶
- 1943:** Chinese immigrants are given the right to citizenship and the right to vote by the Magnuson Act.⁶ Dallas League begins campaign to provide Texas voters with the secret ballot.¹⁷
- 1944:** Dallas League publishes its first *Voters Guide*.¹⁷
- 1949:** (Dallas) A Charter amendment provided for direct election of the mayor.¹⁶
- LWV TX president, Mrs. Martin Row, "stood at the side of the governor when he signed into law the secret ballot and a bill establishing the juvenile court system. He gave full credit to the League for it all. Mrs. Row had been a Dallas League president prior to becoming LWV TX Board director and president."¹
- 1950:** (Dallas) Population 434,462.¹⁶
- The (Dallas) League publishes 20,000 *Voter Guides*.¹⁷
- 1950s and 60s:** LWVD Maximum annual membership¹
- 1952:** The (Dallas) League sponsors a candidates' rally in the Wynnewood section of Oak Cliff where 12 candidates for county offices appeared before an audience of 700.¹⁷

- 1953:** The League name is changed from the League of Women Voters of Dallas County to the League of Women Voters of Dallas in order to focus on city issues.¹⁷
The Board supports a bill in the Texas legislature allowing women to sell their own property without their husband's permission.¹⁷
- 1957:** Dallas Memorial Auditorium built (Dallas Convention Center, expanded in 1973, 1984, 1994, 2002).¹⁶
- 1958:** The League board calls for action promoting world trade through letters to congressional representatives, co-sponsorship of a luncheon meeting with the Dallas Council on World Affairs, and cooperation with the Dallas Public Library to secure a movie on world trade from Princeton University. *Trade Relationships Among Regional Blocs* was the subject of a skit written by League members Fran Faris and Joyce Forney for a League-sponsored meeting at SMU attended by more than 200 people.¹⁷
The League conducts its first candidate's forum on television. KRLD-TV granted time for presentations by Republican Bruce Alger and Democrat Grover Cantrell, running for the 5th Congressional District.¹⁷
Know Your Schools is published. Dallas League member Catherine Perrine chaired the committee that prepared this comparative study of school districts in Dallas, Richardson and the Park Cities.¹⁷
- 1960:** (Dallas) Population 679,684. ¹⁶
Dallas League President Virginia MacDonald speaks at a meeting of the American Jewish Committee on the topic *Methods for Achieving Peaceful Integration*.¹⁷
- 1961:** Residents of Washington, D.C. are granted the right to vote in U.S. Presidential Elections, by the Twenty-third Amendment to the Constitution.²⁵
(Dallas) Racial integration of public and private facilities began, the work of a biracial committee appointed by the Dallas and Negro Chambers of Commerce. ¹⁶
- 1963:** (Dallas) Assassination of President John F. Kennedy. ¹⁶
- 1964:** Poll Tax payment is prohibited from being used as a condition for voting in federal elections by the Twenty-fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution.⁶
The Dallas League lobbies forcefully at local, state and national levels for repeal of the poll tax as a means of voter registration. Their efforts were rewarded when the 24th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution overturned the poll tax.¹⁷
- 1965:** Protection of voter registration and voting for racial minorities, later applied to language minorities, is established by the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This has also been applied to correcting discriminatory election systems and districting.⁶
7 March: "Bloody Sunday" Selma, Alabama.²²
6 August: Voting Rights Act prohibits racial discrimination in voting.^{22, 27}
- TBD:** LWVD Maximum number of Units is 16¹
6 August: Voting Rights Act adopted.²⁷
- 1966:** Margaret Bell Houston Kauffman passes away in Florida. She is buried at Restland in Dallas.⁶
Tax payment and wealth requirements for voting in state elections are prohibited by the Supreme Court in *Harper v. Virginia Board of Elections*.⁶
The (Dallas) League studies and supports the idea of a human relations commission for Dallas. League President Fran Faris chaired the steering committee that resulted in the formation of the Greater Dallas Community Relations Commission.¹⁷
- 1968:** The Dallas League begins a study of the Urban Design Process which led to the support for a comprehensive planning program for Dallas.¹⁷
- 1969:** (Dallas) 10-1 Council (eleven council places, including mayor). ¹⁶
- 1970s:** LWVD Membership decline due to "increasing number of women returning to school and work".¹
(Dallas) Population 844,401. ¹⁶
- 1971:** (Dallas) Lawsuit forced election by districts rather than at-large. ¹⁶

- Adults aged 18 through 21 are granted the right to vote by the Twenty-sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution. This was enacted in response to Vietnam War protests, which argued that soldiers who were old enough to fight for their country should be granted the right to vote.⁶
- 1972:** A comprehensive study on centers and services for child care is conducted. The Dallas League continues to lobby for child care that is high in quality and for city-subsidized child care centers in low-income areas.¹⁷
Only weeks after congressional passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, delegates to the League's national convention strongly approved support of "equal rights for all, regardless of sex" as a necessary extension of the League's ongoing position of equal opportunity for all.¹⁷
- 1974:** Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport opened. The airport was a joint project of the City and other local municipal governments.¹⁶
This is the text and just as important the audio of Representative Barbara Jordan's statement as the House's Judiciary Committee opened hearings on the impeachment of Richard Nixon.
<https://americanrhetoric.com/speeches/barbarajordanjudiciarystatement.htm>³
- 1977:** Dallas League member Dorothy Masterson is instrumental in the passage of a landlord-tenant ordinance, an action priority for the Dallas League. Dorothy founded the Dallas Tenant Association, now known as the Housing Crisis Center.¹⁷
A statewide probation system is implemented by the legislature. Dallas League President Diana Clark was appointed to the new Texas Adult Probation Commission.¹⁷
- 1978:** (Dallas) New City Hall, designed by I. M. Pei, opens at 1500 Marilla Street.¹⁶
Budget Blueprint is published. It described the process by which the City of Dallas creates its budget and at which stages citizens might effectively contribute ideas. This first-of-its-kind booklet was researched and written by Dallas League members Rebecca Bergstresser, Nancy Bockhaus, Mary Ann Johnson and Nancy Woo. It was edited by Barbara Materka.¹⁷
- 1980:** (Dallas) Population 904,078. Reunion Arena, a 17,000-20,000-seat, \$27-million, multi-purpose event space, built.¹⁶
- 1982:** Dallas Arboretum and Samuell Farm opened.¹⁶
- 1984:** The Dallas League again turns its attention to the Trinity River. Molly Van Ort headed League participation in the City's study of a potential Town Lake. Both the Dallas League and the city concluded that a Trinity Park with small, off-channel lakes should be developed.¹⁷
Dallas Convention Center hosted Republican National Convention.¹⁶
- 1986:** United States Military and Uniformed Services, Merchant Marine, other citizens overseas, living on bases in the United States, abroad, or aboard ship are granted the right to vote by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.⁶
- 1988:** To encourage involvement in city government, the League publishes *Sinking Your Teeth into the Marshmallow*, a study of citizen participation at city council.¹⁷
- 1989:** The National Council of Jewish Women invites the League and other groups to form a coalition for reproductive freedom.¹⁷
The League co-sponsored a household hazardous waste collection of items that polluted land and endangered water.¹⁷
Morton Meyerson Symphony Hall opened.¹⁶
- 1990:** (Dallas) Population 1,006,877.¹⁶
- 1992:** (Dallas) Amendment expanded the council to fourteen single-member districts, with the mayor elected at large.¹⁶
LWVD 8 Units¹
For the presidential election the Dallas League, in cooperation with the Dallas Morning News, prints and distributes 900,000 Voters Guides.¹⁷
- 1993:** League member Julie Lowenberg and Joy Mankoff become co-chairs of the Greater Dallas Coalition for Reproductive Freedom.¹⁷
- 1994:** (Dallas) The Cotton Bowl at Fair Park hosted six World Cup soccer games.¹⁶

- 1998:** Annette Strauss a member of LWVD and first woman mayor of Dallas passed away.³
- 2000:** (Dallas) Population 1,188,580.¹⁶
- TBD:** LWVD 4 Units⁴
- 2001:** American Airlines Center, an 18,000-21,000-seat, \$420-million, multi-purpose event space, opened; it became home of Dallas Mavericks and Dallas Stars.¹⁶
- 2003:** (Dallas) Latino Cultural Center, designed by Ricardo Legorreta, is dedicated.¹⁶
- 2007:** The Dallas League elects its first African-American President, Libbie Terrel Lee.¹⁷
- 2008:** Michelle Obama speaks at the Democratic National Convention about how history has shaped her.²¹
- 2009:** The Dallas League joins in partnership with the *Dallas Examiner Newspaper* in hosting *Monday Night Politics*, a nonpartisan event featuring all matters related to the 2009 City Council elections and the ballot propositions.¹⁷
(Dallas) Arts District completed. Reunion Arena, former home of Dallas Mavericks and Dallas Stars, demolished.¹⁶
- 2010:** (Dallas) Population 1,197,816.¹⁶
The Dallas League celebrates its 90th anniversary, as well as the 90th anniversary of the 19th Amendment.¹⁷
- 2011:** The Dallas League co-hosts the Water Forum on the LWV Texas study on *Water as a Commodity in Texas*, along with four other area Leagues and the Sierra Club.¹⁷
- 2012:** Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge, designed by Santiago Calatrava and spanning the Trinity, completed. Klyde Warren Park opened. The park was a 5.2-acre public park built over Woodall Rodgers Freeway that connects uptown with downtown Dallas.¹⁶
- 2013:** In a 5-to-4 vote, the Supreme Court ruled that Section 5 (of the VRA) was unconstitutional. “The Supreme Court ruled ... that the coverage formula in Section 4(b) of the VRA, which was used to determine the states and political subdivisions subject to Section 5 preclearance, was unconstitutional. Thus, while the Court did not invalidate the preclearance mechanism in the VRA per se, it effectively halted its use by invalidating the formula that determined which places were subject to the preclearance obligation,” according to [The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights](#).
When Section 5 was declared unconstitutional in 2013, many minorities and support groups voiced their outrage. Meanwhile, a new controversy has arisen with the requirement by certain states that voters present a valid photo ID in order to vote.
“Voting rights advocates say that statutes that limit early voting and registration, require voters to show photo ID, and purge voter rolls still disproportionately affect poor and minority voters,” according to [Pro Publica](#).²⁶
- 2014:** The Dallas League hosts its first ever LWV National Convention. More than 120 volunteers from Dallas area Leagues worked under the leadership of Cecilia McKay to welcome over 800 participants from 47 states.¹⁷
(Dallas) Wright Amendment repealed, renewing use of Dallas Love Field.¹⁶
- 2015:** Author Rena Pederson discusses her book *The Burma Spring: Aung San Suu Kyi and Struggle for the Soul of a Nation*. The very successful tea event was chaired by Beck Brakke and was held in the home of League member Jane Pak.¹⁷
(Dallas) Love Field \$519-million major renovation and expansion – Phase I completed.¹⁶
- 2018:** The Dallas League collaborates with the Dallas County Community College District’s LeCroy Center, under the direction of Vice President of Voter Outreach Elizabeth Walley, in the production of six-series video. The *Be a Texas Voter* video series was designed to help young people increase understanding of their role as citizens in Texas.¹⁷
Dallas League volunteers register a record 2,123 citizens during 154 events.¹⁷
- 2019:** LWVD has 330 members⁴
The Dallas League *Voters Guide* covers a record 103 races in every city in Dallas County.¹⁷

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This document is a work in progress. We invite your additions and corrections. Please send them to the League of Women Voters of Dallas office at lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net; 6060 N Central Expwy, Ste. 500, Dallas, TX 75206.