

Women Leaders of Mason County

During the 2020 Centennial of passage of the 19th amendment, members of the League of Women Voters of Mason County looked back to learn about women across the nation who led the way during the long campaign for women suffrage. We were inspired by these women of the past to shine a spotlight on the lives and leadership of women in our own county. The project to research and write biographies; and create a travelling display, a booklet, and Power Point Presentation was partially funded with a grant from the Mason County Historical Preservation Commission. Our research partners included the Mason County Historical Society Museum, Daughters of the Pioneers, the Skokomish Tribal Council, and family members.

Women in Mason County made significant contributions to the social, economic and political life of their communities. Native American women held leadership and management positions in their tribal groups. Women pioneers in Washington Territory and early statehood had gained property rights, voted in school elections, and served on juries long before they achieved the right to vote in all state and national elections. Women have always been half of history, and their stories add to our understanding of both our past and present.

We chose to research the lives of seven women, both past and present, who made a difference in Mason County by:

Pushing boundaries as they overcame limitations and expectations of women in their time and persisted through adversity.

Setting an example of citizen participation as they helped build the communities in Mason County with their unique skills and talents.

Representing the diverse cultures and communities of Mason County.

Women Leaders Posters and Power Points created by Linda Woytowich