

Women's Equity Day: Honoring the Legacy of the 19th Amendment

The League of Women Voters cannot allow August to pass without recognizing **Women's Equity Day**. August 26, 2026, marks the anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, the constitutional change that granted women the right to vote and reshaped the American electorate.

On May 21, 1919, the House of Representatives passed the amendment, and 2 weeks later, the Senate followed. When Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the amendment on August 18, 1920, the amendment passed its final hurdle of obtaining the agreement of three-fourths of the states. Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby certified the ratification on August 26, 1920, changing the face of the American electorate forever. [19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Women's Right to Vote \(1920\) | National Archives](#)

The 19th Amendment immediately expanded the electorate by an estimated 20 million women, opened the doors of democracy by strengthening civic engagement and accelerating women's political and social influence. Its legacy laid essential groundwork for future legislation that broadened rights and protections for all Americans including:

- [26th Amendment](#)
- [Civil Rights Act of 1964](#)
- [Voting Rights Act of 1965](#)
- [Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972](#)
- [National Voter Registration Act of 1993](#)
- [Help America Vote Act of 2002](#)

and many other social and civic legislations that extended rights and protections to all the American citizens.

We at the League of Women Voters ...*believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy. That's been our vision since 1920, when the League of Women Voters was founded by leaders of the women's suffrage movement. For 100 years, we have been a nonpartisan, activist, grassroots organization that believes voters should play a critical role in democracy.* [History | League of Women Voters](#)

As we observe Women's Equity Day, we honor the courage, persistence, and vision of the women who fought for the right to vote. We also recommit ourselves to protecting and expanding that hard won right for generations to come. As stated by Carrie Moon-Dupree "I'm not going to die with less rights than when I was born!" LWV keeps pressing on!