



WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALL-AGES READING LIST

Histories of Woman Suffrage

Mari Jo and Paul Buhle, editors. *The Concise History of Woman Suffrage: Selections from the Classic Work of Stanton, Anthony, Gage and Harper*. University of Illinois Press, 2005. Carefully chosen primary documents originally published in the classic six-volume *History of Woman Suffrage* originally compiled by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and their successors between 1887 and 1922.

Eleanor Flexner and Ellen Fitzpatrick. *Century of Struggle: The Woman's Rights Movement in the United States*. Harvard University Press, 1996. The longtime standard history of the fight for women's suffrage in the U.S., recently enlarged; a first-rate and comprehensive history, thoroughly researched and well written.

Susan Ware. *American Women's History: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 2015. Emphasizes the diverse experiences of American women as they were shaped by race, class, religion, geographical location, age, and sexual orientation, and tracing changing historical and cultural constructions of roles assigned to American women; includes excellent material on woman suffrage.

Elaine Weiss. *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*. Viking, 2018.

A colorful history of the struggle for ratification of the 19th amendment waged in Tennessee to tell the larger history of the final stages of the battle for woman suffrage.

Suffrage Leaders and Workers

Mia Bay. *To Tell the Truth Freely: The Life of Ida B. Wells*. Hill and Wang, 2009. Bay meticulously and incisively delves into the life of the incomparable suffragist, anti-lynching activist, and civil rights activist in U.S. history. Wells risked her life on numerous occasions via her efforts to secure inalienable rights for black people of all genders and women of all races. Her work as a suffragist often demanded that both white women and black men listen to and support black women.

Lori Ginzberg. *Elizabeth Cady Stanton: An American Life*. Hill and Wang, 2008. Biography of a woman of great charm, enormous appetite, and extraordinary intellectual gifts who turned the limitations placed on women like herself into a universal philosophy of equal rights. But she was no secular saint, and her positions were not always on the side of the broadest possible conception of justice and social change.

Mary Church Terrell. *A Colored Woman in a White World*. Ransdell Inc. 1940. A compelling autobiography detailing the extraordinary life of one of the most formidable women's rights and racial justice activists in U.S. history. From advocating for universal suffrage to pushing for the racial desegregation of public accommodations, Terrell played an integral role in propelling the U.S. towards becoming a more just and equitable society. This thought-provoking autobiography offers unmatched insight into the lived experiences of one of the most notable suffragists in modern American history.

Jacqueline Van Voris. *Carrie Chapman Catt: A Public Life*. Feminist Press at CUNY, 1996. Biography of the woman who led the National American Woman Suffrage Association to victory and helped found the League of Women Voters. Focusing on Catt's public life and faith in the human race.

Susan Ware. *Why They Marched: Untold Stories of the Women who Fought for the Right to Vote*. Belknap Press, 2019. Biographical sketches of nineteen activists and the artifacts linked to them, illustrating some of the many women who worked tirelessly in communities across the nation, out of the spotlight, protesting, petitioning, and insisting on their right to full citizenship.

Women of Color, Race and the Woman Suffrage Movement

Angela Davis. *Women, Race and Class*. Vintage, 1983. Davis is one of the pioneers of Black Women's Studies. This book centers on black women in her analysis of how race, class, and gender operate. More specifically, Davis examines anti-black racism within the suffrage movement and explores how black women navigated racial tensions. Davis also discusses the roles of sexism, patriarchy, and misogyny in the denial of voting rights to all women. The book is at once accessible, powerful, and unflinching in its analysis of the racial, gender, and class oppression.

Paula Giddings. *When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America*. Harper Collins, 2001. Suffrage activism is an important chapter of black women's history. Although not solely focused upon black suffragists, this book highlights the importance of suffrage to black women and explores the contours of black women's suffrage activism. The book is an excellent teaching resource for anyone interested in understanding black women's activism from slavery to the Civil Rights Movement.

Rosalyn Terborg-Penn. *African American Women in the Struggle for the Vote, 1850-1920*. Indiana University Press, 1998. One of the most comprehensive books on the history of African American women and suffrage, Terborg-Penn uncovers a less-celebrated history of women's activism. This book details how and why black women demanded voting rights. The book also presents tensions within suffrage and voting rights movements to underscore the unique position of black women within the fight for universal suffrage.

Woman Suffrage in the Larger World

Louise Newman. *White Women's Rights: The Racial Origins of Feminism in the United States*. Oxford University Press, 1999. Examination of the impact of racism and ethnography on feminist thought from the end of the Civil War to 1920, this book traces the impact of Darwinian theories on the white middle-class women who led the movement, advocating for the preservation of white bourgeois civilization and the education of primitive peoples.

Leila J. Rupp. *Worlds of Women: The Making of an International Women's Movement*. Princeton University Press, 1997. Exploration of the "first wave" of the international women's movement, from its late nineteenth-century origins through the Second World War, it examines the histories and accomplishments of three major transnational women's organizations to tell the story of women's struggle to pursue suffrage and construct a feminist international collective identity.

Alison Sneider. *Suffragists in an Imperial Age: U.S. Expansion and the Woman Question*. Oxford University Press, 2008. An exploration of the connections between woman suffrage and American imperialism; suffragists believed it was the "duty" of U.S. women to help lift the inhabitants of its new island possessions up from "barbarism" to "civilization," a project they hoped would demonstrate the capacity of U.S. women for full citizenship and political rights.

Film and Video

***Black Women and the Suffrage Movement*, 2017.** C-Span video featuring Professor Gloria Browne-Marshall. In these fifty-five minute videos, Dr. Browne-Marshall discusses the struggle for black women to attain voting rights. She compares black women's suffrage activism with that of white women and black men. The video is informative, yet an accessible recollection of a complicated history. <https://www.c-span.org/video/?434697-3/black-women-suffrage-movement>

***Iron Jawed Angels*, directed by Katja von Garnier. HBO Films, 2004.** American historical drama starring Hilary Swank as suffragist leader Alice Paul, with Frances O'Connor as activist Lucy Burns, and Angelica Huston as Carrie Chapman Catt. While the film is not always historically reliable, it raises interesting questions about alliances and rivalries over questions of tactics as well as personal style in the American woman suffrage movement.

***Not for Ourselves Alone*, directed by Ken Burns. Florentine Films and WETA, c2019, c1999.** Two-part film tells the story of the woman suffrage movement, with a particular focus on Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Companion book has excellent photographs and good narrative.

***One Woman, One Vote*. Ruth Pollack, Educational Film Center, 1995.** PBS video chronicling 70 years of suffrage activism in the United States leading up to the passage and ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment. Although released over twenty years ago, this documentary is a useful teaching tool, as it is broken into numerous, easily digestible sections of information.

***Selma*, directed by Ava DuVernay. Paramount Pictures, 2015.** Historical drama starring David Oyelowo as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Tessa Thompson as Diane Nash, Carmen Ejogo as Coretta Scott King, and Lorraine Toussaint as Amelia Boynton. The film is heavily based on the historic 1965 voting rights marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. Although the Voting Rights Act of 1965 outlawed discriminatory voting practices, black women and men were still being denied access to the polls. This film shines light upon some of the lesser known Black women who were a part of the organizing and mobilizing in the deep South for actualization of universal suffrage.

Suffrage Still Matters

Carol Anderson. *One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression is Destroying our Democracy*. Bloomsbury, 2018. History of policies that have systematically rolled back African American participation in the vote since the 2013 Supreme Court Shelby decision that eviscerated the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Anderson documents voter suppression from photo ID requirements to gerrymandering to poll closures.

Ari Berman. *Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2015. An account of the continuing battle over the right to vote in the fifty years after the the 1965 Voting Rights Act, chronicling the transformative impact of the act and the backlash, including new strategies to keep minorities out of the voting booth, efforts to limit political representation by gerrymandering electoral districts, and the Supreme Court's decision that declared a key part of the Voting Rights Act unconstitutional.

Gloria J. Browne-Marshall and Rev. Dr. C.T. Vivian. *The Voting Rights War: The NAACP and the Ongoing Struggle for Justice*. Rowan and Littlefield Publishers, 2016. This powerful book looks at the 100-year history of the NAACP's legal battles to secure voting rights for all. What is most compelling about this book is how it connects history to the present and sharply focuses on more recent efforts to limit or suppress

voting rights. Vivian and Browne-Marshall's book is a call to action for those who continue to be invested in universal suffrage.

Alex Keyssar. *The Right to Vote: The Contested History of Democracy in the United States*. Basic Books, 2000. Examining the many features of the history of the right to vote in the U.S.—class, ethnicity, race, gender, religion, and age—this book explores the conditions under which American democracy has expanded and contracted over the years and presents evidence that the primary factor promoting the expansion of the suffrage has been war and the primary factors promoting contraction or delaying expansion have been class tension and class conflict.

Other Visual Resources

Pénélope Bagieu. *Brazen: Rebel Ladies Who Rocked the World*. First Second, an imprint of Roaring Book Press, 2018. Throughout history and across the globe, one characteristic connects the daring women of Brazen: their indomitable spirit. From Nellie Bly to Mae Jemison or Josephine Baker to Naziq al-Abid, the stories in this comic biography are sure to inspire the next generation of rebel ladies.

Marta Breen. *Fearless Females: The Fight for Freedom, Equality, and Sisterhood*. Yellow Jacket, 2019. This beautifully illustrated graphic novel tells the stories of fearless females who have fought, and continue to fight for the rights of women today. Featuring familiar icons like Harriet Tubman and Malala Yousafzai, and introducing hidden figures like Táhirih, readers will be fascinated reading about these female activists who advocated for equality, education, and bodily integrity throughout history.

Jen Deaderick and Rita Sapunor. *She the People: A Graphic History of Uprisings, Breakdowns, Setbacks, Revolts, and Enduring Hope on the Unfinished Road to Women's Equality*. Seal Press, 2019. Takes on the campaign for change by offering a cheekily illustrated, sometimes sarcastic, and all-too-true account of women's evolving rights and citizenship.

Mary Talbot and Bryan Talbot. *Sally Heathcote: Suffragette*. Jonathan Cape, 2014. Follows the fortunes of a common housemaid swept up in the feminist militancy of early 20th century Edwardian Britain. As the growing hunger for change grows within a culture of rigid social mores and class barriers, Sally and thousands like her rise up to break the bonds of oppression at the risk of ostracization and violence.

Tony Wolf. *Suffrajitsu: The Collected Edition*. Tony Wolf Books, 2015. The leaders of the radical women's rights movement are fugitives from the law. Their last line of defense is the secret society of "Amazons", women trained in the martial art of bartitsu and sworn to defend their leaders.

Board Books

Julia Garstecki. *U.S. Government*. Baby's Big World Series, 2017. Discover how the U.S. government works, from how a law is passed, to where the president lives.

Emily Kleinman. *Little Feminist Board Book Set*. Mudpuppy, 2017. Colorful illustrated portraits of real women who have made historical impact. Illustrations by Lydia Ortiz and words by Emily Kleinman introduce children to these important people in history with images that are fun for youngsters and also realistic. The Board Book Set includes 4 mini board books: Pioneers, Artists, Leaders, and Activists.

Innosanto Nagara. *A is for Activist*. Penguin Random House, 2016. The bestselling ABC book for families who want their kids to grow up in a space that is unapologetic about activism, environmental justice, civil rights, LGBTQ rights, and everything else that we believe in and fight for.

Picture Books and Early Readers

Peter Barnes. *Woodrow for President: A Tail of Voting, Campaigns, and Elections.* VSP Books, 1999. Explains the electoral process to children in fun, rhyming verse, from Woodrow's humble beginnings as a child in Missouri and his first election to public office, to his inauguration as president!

Doreen Cronin. *Duck for President!* Simon & Schuster, 2004. When Duck gets tired of working for Farmer Brown, his political ambition eventually leads to his being elected President.

Kate Hannigan. *A Lady Has the Floor: Belva Lockwood Speaks Out for Women's Rights.* Calkins Creek, 2018. Activist Belva Lockwood never stopped asking herself the question "Are women not worth the same as men?" She had big dreams and didn't let anyone stand in her way--not her father, her law school, or even the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mariana Llanos. *A Superpower for Me.* CreateSpace, 2015. What happens when a young girl discovers her parents have a superpower? Wait! There's more: She'll have it too when she turns eighteen! But what is this special power that will make her country and city a better place to live?

Claire Rudolf Murphy. *Marching with Aunt Susan: Susan B. Anthony and the Fight for Women's Suffrage.* Peachtree, 2017. Not allowed to go hiking with her father and brothers because she is a girl, Bessie learns about women's rights when she attends a suffrage rally led by Susan B. Anthony.

Doreen Rappaport. *Elizabeth Started All the Trouble.* Hyperion Books, 2016. She couldn't go to college, become a politician, or even vote. Elizabeth Cady Stanton called on women across the nation to stand together and demand to be treated as equal to men - and that included the right to vote.

Mara Rockliff. *Around America to Win the Vote: Two Suffragists, a Kitten, and 10,000 Miles.* Candlewick Press, 2016. In April 1916, Nell Richardson and Alice Burke set out from New York City in a little yellow car, embarking on a bumpy, muddy, unmapped journey ten thousand miles long. They took with them a teeny typewriter, a tiny sewing machine, a wee black kitten, and a message: Votes for Women!

Tanya Lee Stone. *Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote.* Henry Holt, 2008. From an early age, Elizabeth Cady Stanton knew that women were not given rights equal to men. But rather than accept her lesser status, Elizabeth went to college and later gathered other like-minded women to challenge the right to vote.

Linda White. *I Could Do That! Esther Morris Gets Women the Vote.* Weston Woods, 2005. "I could do that," says six-year-old Esther as she watches her mother making tea. Start her own business at the age of nineteen? Why, she could do that, too. But one thing Esther could NOT do was vote. Only men could do that. This book shows how one girl's gumption propels her through a life filled with challenges until, in 1869, she wins the vote for women in Wyoming Territory – the first time ever in the United States!

Jonah Winter. *Lillian's Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.* Schwartz & Wade Books, 2015. As an elderly woman, Lillian recalls that her great-great-grandparents were sold as slaves in front of a courthouse where only rich white men were allowed to vote, then the long fight that led to her right to cast her ballot since the Voting Rights Act gave every American that right.

Bonnie Worth. *One Vote, Two Votes, I Vote, You Vote.* Random House, 2016. In simple rhyme, the Cat in the Hat introduces early readers to the concept and practice of voting.

Juvenile Chapter Books

Anna Carey. *Mollie on the March*. The O'Brien Press Ltd, 2018. Mollie Carberry is a suffragist! Well, sort of. Mollie and her best friend Nora have been bravely fighting for women's rights – even though no one else really knows about it. But when they hear a big protest is being planned, they know they have to take part. If only they didn't have to worry about Nora's terrible cousin, her awful brother and an annoying dog.

Dan Gutman. *The Kid Who Ran for President*. Scholastic, 2012. With his friend as campaign manager and his former babysitter as running mate, twelve-year-old Judson Moon sets out to become President.

Varian Johnson. *The Great Greene Heist*. Arthur A. Levine Books, an imprint of Scholastic, 2014. Jackson Greene has a reputation as a prankster at Maplewood Middle School, but when it looks like Keith Sinclair may steal the election for school president from Jackson's best friend, he assembles a team.

Kathryn Lasky. *A Time for Courage: The Suffragette Diary of Kathleen Bowen*. Scholastic, 2002. As the fight for women's suffrage heats up, Kathleen "Kat" Bowen gets to participate as her mother and her sister, and many others close to her organize and act to win the right to vote.

Holly Webb. *The Princess and the Suffragette*. Scholastic, 2017. Lottie learns about the women's suffrage movement from Sara, who returns to visit the orphanage from time to time. Soon Lottie finds herself sneaking out to attend a demonstration, in defiance of her cold, distant father. A father who has a secret to hide about her own missing mother. It's a story about lost mothers turning up in unexpected situations, the power of friendship and female empowerment.

Teen Chapter Books

Joan Bauer. *Hope Was Here*. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2000. When Hope and her aunt move to small-town Wisconsin to take over the local diner, Hope's not sure what to expect. But what they find is that the owner, G.T., isn't quite ready to give up yet--in fact, he's decided to run for mayor against a corrupt candidate. Hope finds herself caught up in G.T.'s campaign--particularly his visions for the future. After all, as G.T. points out, everyone can use a little hope to help get through the tough times, even Hope herself.

Anna Carey. *The Making of Mollie*. The O'Brien Press, 2016. Mollie discovers her older sister has joined the women's suffrage cause, so she contemplates getting involved as well.

Margarita Engle. *The Firefly Letters: A Suffragette's Journey to Cuba*. Henry Holt and Co., 2017. Draws on little-known Cuban history to tell a stirring story in poetry. Based on the diaries and letters of Swedish suffragist Fredrika Bremer, who spent three months in Cuba in 1851, the story focuses on oppressed women, the privileged as well as the enslaved, in three alternating free-verse narratives.

Gordon Jack. *Your Own Worst Enemy*. HarperCollins Publishers, 2018. Three candidates, three platforms, and a whirlwind of social media gaffes, high school drama, and protests make for a ridiculously hilarious political circus that just may hold some poignant truth somewhere in the mix.

Sally Nicholls. *Things a Bright Girl Can Do*. Andersen Press, 2017. Through rallies and marches, in polite drawing rooms, freezing prison cells, and the poverty-stricken slums of the East End, three courageous young women join the fight for the vote.

Cat Winters. *The Cure for Dreaming*. Amulet Books, 2014. Olivia Mead is a headstrong, independent girl—a suffragist—in an age that prefers its girls to be docile. It's 1900 in Oregon, and Olivia's father, concerned that she's headed for trouble, convinces a stage mesmerist to try to hypnotize the rebellion out of her. But the

hypnotist gives her a terrible gift instead: she's able to see people's true natures, manifesting as visions of darkness and goodness, while also unable to speak her true thoughts out loud.

Youth Nonfiction

Eileen Christelow. *Vote!* Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018. Using a campaign for mayor as an example, shows the steps involved in an election, from the candidate's speeches and rallies, to the voting booth where every vote counts, to the announcement of the winner.

Kirsten Gillibrand. *Bold & Brave: Ten Heroes Who Won Women the Right to Vote.* Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, 2018. Short biographies of ten women who fought hard to gain the right to vote in the United States, including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Inez Milholland, and Mary Church Terrell.

Kerrie Logan Hollihan. *Rightfully Ours: How Women Won the Vote: 21 Activities.* Chicago Review Press, 2012. Tells the story of the century-long struggle for women's suffrage in the US, including a timeline, online resources, and hands-on activities that give a sense of the everyday lives of the suffragists.

Carolyn Jackson. *The Election Book: The People Pick a President.* Scholastic, 2012. An excellent intro to the political process; simply explains complex topics such as the electoral college and voter rights.

Nancy Ohlin. *Women's Suffrage.* Little Bee Books, 2018. [Also published as] *Blast Back! Women's Suffrage.* Simon & Schuster, 2018. Blast back to the past and learn all about the women's suffrage movement. This engaging nonfiction book, complete with black-and-white interior illustrations, will make readers feel like they've traveled back in time

Pam Pollack. *Who Was Susan B. Anthony?* Grosset & Dunlap, an imprint of Penguin

Group, 2014. Working as a school teacher in New York, Anthony refused to settle for less pay than her male colleagues which ignited her lifelong devotion to women's equality. Anthony toured the United States and Europe giving speeches and publishing articles as one of the most important advocates of women's rights.

Eleanor Roosevelt, with Michelle Markel. *When You Grow Up to Vote: How our Government Works for You.* Roaring Brook Press, 2018. Eleanor Roosevelt published the original edition of *When You Grow Up to Vote* in 1932, the same year her husband was elected president. This new edition is up-to-date and full of beautiful illustrations by Grace Lin. Beginning with government workers like firefighters and garbage collectors, and moving up through local government to the national stage, this book explains that the people in government work for the voter.

Judith St. George. *So You Want to Be President?* Philomel Books, 2012. Updated version of the Caldecott-winning classic by illustrator David Small and author Judith St. George, with current facts and new illustrations to include Barack H. Obama. Hilariously illustrated, this celebration shows us the foibles, quirks and humanity of forty-four men who have risen to one of the most powerful positions in the world.

Louise Kay Stewart. *Rebel Voices: The Global Fight for Women's Equality and the Right to Vote.* Crocodile Books, USA, an imprint of Interlink Publishing Group, 2018. A timely, beautiful and bold compendium of women around the world. Rule Breakers. Risk Takers. Rebel Women. Law Makers. This book is a celebration of women standing up, speaking out, and sticking together to battle inequality.

Susan Zimet. *Roses and Radicals: The Epic Story of How American Women Won the Right to Vote.* Viking Books for Young Readers, 2018. The US is almost 250 years old, but women won the right to vote

less than a hundred years ago. Illustrated with portraits, period cartoons, and other images, *Roses and Radicals* celebrates this captivating piece of American history and the women who made it happen.

About the Booklist Curators

Dr. Carol Lasser, Emerita Professor of History at Oberlin College, chaired the History Department and the Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies Program. Her books include *Elusive Utopia: The Struggle for Racial Equality in Oberlin, Ohio* (with Gary Kornblith, 2018); *Antebellum American Women* (with Stacey Robertson, 2010); *Teaching American History* (co-edited with Gary Kornblith 2009); *Friends and Sisters: Letters Between Lucy Stone and Antoinette Brown Blackwell, 1846-1893*, (with Marlene Merrill, 1987) and *Educating Men and Women Together: Coeducation in a Changing World* (1987), and her articles have ranged from Civil War courtship, to working women, feminist historiography, and the scholarship of teaching.

Dr. Treva Lindsey, Associate Professor at the Ohio State University, specializes in African American women's history, black popular and expressive culture, black feminism(s), hip hop studies, critical race and gender theory, and sexual politics. Her first book is *Colored No More: Reinventing Black Womanhood in Washington D.C.* She was the inaugural Equity for Women and Girls of Color Fellow at Harvard University (2016-2017). She is currently working on her next book project tentatively titled, *Hear Our Screams: Black Women, Violence, and The Struggle for Justice*.

Sarah Hedrick earned her Master's in Library Science from Kent State University and her Bachelor's Degree from Heidelberg University in Tiffin. She is a children's librarian in the Dayton area.

About the League of Women Voters of Ohio

In May 1920, the Ohio Woman Suffrage Association transformed into the League of Women Voters of Ohio. Our founding mothers represented diverse sectors of Ohio women: nurses, teachers, letter carriers, business owners, newspaper reporters, and groups like the Federation of Colored Women's Clubs and Daughters of the American Revolution. The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Members are the lifeblood of the League of Women Voters of Ohio with over 30 local Leagues across the state. This publication is part of League of Women Voters of Ohio's celebration of its 100th Anniversary as well as the Centennial of the 19th Amendment.



This publication is made possible, in part, by Ohio Humanities, a state affiliate of the National Endowment of the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this document do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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