

Women in America first collectively organized in 1848 at the First Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, NY to fight for suffrage (or voting rights). Organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, the convention sparked the women's suffrage movement. Not everyone followed the same path in fighting for women's equal access to the vote, and the history of the suffrage movement is one of disagreements as well as cooperation.

While women were not always united in their goals, and the fight for women's suffrage was complex and interwoven with issues of civil and political rights for all Americans, the efforts of women like Ida B. Wells and Alice Paul led to the passage of the 19th Amendment. Signed into law on August 26, 1920, the passage of the 19th Amendment was the result of decades of work by tens of thousands across the country who worked for change.

**The 19th Amendment: A Crash Course**

19th Amendment to the United States Constitution: *The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.*

**An Overview of the 19th Amendment** In 1848 women and men met in Seneca Falls, New York to advance the cause for women's rights. The convention, organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Martha Wright, Mary Ann M'Clintock, and Jane Hunt marked the beginning of a formal women's suffrage movement. The men and women of the movement made speeches and petitioned Congress, pressuring government officials to recognize the woman's right to vote. Stanton, Mott, and suffrage advocate Susan B. Anthony did not live to see women get the right to vote. Instead, they paved the way for future suffragists like Alice Paul, Ida B. Wells, and Mabel Ping-Hua Lee.

The women leading the women's suffrage movement were not always unified. Some suffragists thought only white women should exercise their right to vote. Others like Charlotte Forten Grimke, Mary Ann Shadd Cary, and Mary Church Terrell knew women of color also had a right to participate in electing government officials.

The first constitutional amendment to secure votes for women was introduced to congress in 1878. It failed. By 1919, suffragists get another amendment introduced to congress that would secure women's right to vote. The 19th Amendment passed both the House and Senate. The states ratified the 19th Amendment in 1920, officially recognizing women's right to vote.



**Suffrage parade New York City on May 4, 1912**

the government recognized women's right to vote, many women still faced discrimination. Paul and other members of the National Woman's Party drafted the Equal Rights Amendment. If ratified, the amendment would guarantee equal rights to all people regardless of their gender. The Equal Rights Amendment was ratified by both houses of Congress in the 1970s but failed to get adequate support from the states. It has not yet been ratified to the Constitution.

Women's rights advocates did make progress in passing other legislation after 1920. Congress passed the Equal Pay Act in 1963, making it illegal to pay a woman less for doing the same job as a man. A year later, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This act is often associated with the Civil Rights Movement as it prohibits employers from discriminating against an individual based on their race. The act also states that employers cannot discriminate against someone based on their gender. Before the Civil Rights Act of 1964, employers could choose not to hire a woman because of her gender.

A century after the ratification of the 19th Amendment, women are still advocating for their rights. This activism would be impossible without the power of the vote that enables women to have a say in the democracy they live in. The 19th Amendment is a milestone in American history.

**A Brief Timeline of the 19th Amendment**

- July 1848- The first Woman's Rights Convention takes place in Seneca Falls. Suffrage is part of the resulting Declaration of Sentiments
- February 3, 1870- The 15th Amendment is ratified, guaranteeing the right to vote regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.
- January 1878- A women's suffrage amendment is introduced to Senate. It fails in 1887.
- 1914- Another women's suffrage amendment is introduced. It also fails.
- 1918- The 19th Amendment passes the House and then fails in the Senate by 2 votes.
- February 10, 1919- The 19th Amendment fails in the Senate by 1 vote.
- May 21, 1919- The 19th Amendment passes in the House.
- June 4, 1919- The 19th Amendment passes in the Senate.
- June 10, 1919- Wisconsin and Michigan are the first states to ratify the 19th Amendment.
- August 18, 1920- Tennessee is the 36th State to ratify the 19th Amendment law, passing the three-fourths threshold requirement for the amendment to become law.
- August 26, 1920- The 19th Amendment is adopted as part of the US Constitution.

**Voting Rights After the 19th Amendment** The 19th Amendment did not guarantee that all women and men in the United States could vote. Securing this essential right has been a long struggle, that for some, continues on to this day.

- 1924, Indian Citizenship Act- Native Americans deemed US citizens, but states continue to decide who votes. Many continue to disenfranchise Native Americans.
- 1943, Magnuson Act- Chinese in America granted the right to become citizens, and therefore to vote (the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 previously prevented this)
- 1962- Utah is the last state to enfranchise Native Americans.
- 1965, Voting Rights Act- African Americans and Native Americans continued to face exclusion from voting through mechanisms like poll taxes, literacy tests, and intimidation. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 eliminated many of these.

**Learn more about the 19th Amendment** Visit the National Park Service's 19th Amendment page ([nps.gov/subjects/womenshistory/19th-amendment.htm](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/womenshistory/19th-amendment.htm)) to discover more about this landmark legislation. For primary source documents and more resources check out the Library of Congress 19th Amendment Web Guide at [guides.loc.gov/19th-amendment](https://guides.loc.gov/19th-amendment).



**Lyndon Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act with Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights activists standing by, on August 6, 1965**

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The Anson County Water Department will take legal action against any individual or business that unlawfully obtains water from the Anson County water system. Please report suspicious activity to the Anson County Sheriff's Office or the Water Department.

Hydrant use permit information is available from the Anson County Water Department. Information is available at 704-694-5208.

## COVID-19 AND FOOD SAFETY FAQ

### IS CORONAVIRUS A CONCERN AT GROCERY STORES?

CDC, FDA and USDA are not aware of any reports at this time that suggest COVID-19 can be transmitted by food or food packaging. Current evidence shows the biggest risk of transmission of COVID-19 is being around individuals who are symptomatic (and to a lesser extent, infected but not showing symptoms.) Food businesses should be following employee health policies and local health department recommendations to keep these individuals home.

**CAN I GET SICK WITH COVID-19 FROM TOUCHING FOOD OR PACKAGING IF THE CORONAVIRUS WAS PRESENT ON IT?**

- There is no indication that food packaging material has served in significant connection to virus transmission.
- If concerned, handling of food packaging can be followed with handwashing and/or using hand sanitizer.

**WHAT STEPS CAN I TAKE TO MINIMIZE RISK WHEN SHOPPING AT THE GROCERY STORE?**

- Use hand sanitizer when entering stores, and wash hands and/or use sanitizer as soon as possible after leaving.
- Try to maintain social distancing as much as possible while shopping.
- Avoid touching surfaces or items unnecessarily and avoid touching your mouth, nose or face.
- Do not go shopping when showing symptoms or think you have been exposed to the virus.

**HOW SHOULD PRODUCE BE HANDLED?**

- Consider using hand sanitizer before and after selecting produce items.
- Avoid touching multiple produce items when making selections.
- As per good food handling practices in general, wash hands before food preparation or eating, avoid touching the face and consider supplementing handwashing with the use of hand sanitizer.

**WHAT IS MY GROCERY STORE DOING TO MINIMIZE MY RISK?**

- Many stores are following CDC guidelines on cleaning and disinfection. Some are limiting hours to allow for additional cleaning and disinfection.
- Stores may also be providing hand sanitizer to customers and be asking sick employees or customers to leave.

NC STATE EXTENSION Stay informed: [go.ncsu.edu/covid-19](http://go.ncsu.edu/covid-19) Updated March 20, 2020

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