



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

OF COLLIN COUNTY
www.lwvcollin.org

Summary Timeline of the Woman Suffrage Movement in the United States With a Focus on Texas

The 19th Amendment that guarantees women the right to vote was formally adopted into the U.S. Constitution on August 26, 1920. *How long had it taken?*

1848 – Woman suffrage movement formally began at the Seneca Falls Convention in NY with adoption of a Declaration of Sentiments that declared, "All men and women are created equal." Resolutions called for the right to vote, equality under the law, and educational opportunities for women.

1850 – The first of 10 annual National Woman's Rights Conventions was held in Worcester, MA; 1,000 men and women from 11 states attended.

1869 – The TEXAS Constitutional Convention rejected the right to vote for women, deeming it "unwomanly."

1869 – The woman suffrage movement split into supporters and opponents of the 15th Amendment based on whether or not women as well as Negroes should be assured the right to vote.

1870 – 15th Amendment ratified prohibiting denial of right to vote because of race, color, or servitude.

1878 – Susan B. Anthony Amendment introduced in U.S. Senate: "THE RIGHT OF CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES TO VOTE SHALL NOT BE DENIED OR ABRIDGED BY THE UNITED STATES OR ANY STATE ON ACCOUNT OF SEX."

1881 – Woman's Christian Temperance Union endorsed woman suffrage

1890 – Wyoming state constitution granted woman suffrage, the 1st state since NJ had from 1776 to 1807

1893 – TEXAS Equal Rights Association formed, Dallas

1894 – TEXAS suffragists failed to achieve equal suffrage planks in the Democrat, Republican, and Populist Party platforms

1895 – TEXAS – Suffrage movement declined and remained dormant until 1903 due to internal friction

1900 – Colorado, Idaho, and Utah granted women full suffrage. Suffragist efforts to gain the vote for women continued across the United States. In spite of many defeats, the suffragists persevered.

1903 – TEXAS Woman Suffrage Association formed, but movement soon became dormant.

1908 – TEXAS – Interest in woman suffrage revived, culminating in a 1913 convention that endorsed the proposed federal woman suffrage amendment.

1912 – Arizona, Kansas, and Oregon adopted woman suffrage. Efforts continue in other states.

1915 – TEXAS – Opponents of woman suffrage formed the Texas Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage. Efforts failed to gain momentum and were limited to leaflet distribution. Texas legislature failed to pass a resolution to "authorize females to vote."

1916 – TEXAS Woman Suffrage Association renamed Texas Equal Suffrage Association. It became effective in organizing local societies and suffrage campaigns.

1917 – Women picketed at the White House for 6 months. Suffragists were arrested, imprisoned, and treated inhumanely (during the Presidency of Woodrow Wilson).

1918 – Suffragists supported the war effort upon entry of the US into World War I. At the end of the war, President Wilson urged the Senate to pass woman suffrage.

1918 – TEXAS law passed that permitted women to vote in primary elections.

1919 – Spring: prominent suffrage prisoners toured the country by train, speaking of the need for suffrage and their prison experiences. May 21/June 4: Joint Resolution for amendment extending right of suffrage to women passed House/Senate and sent to the states for ratification (1978 wording by Susan B. Anthony).

1919 – TEXAS – May: Enfranchisement of women, joined with disenfranchisement of aliens, in a proposed constitutional amendment defeated by male electorate. June 28: Texas ratified the proposed 19th Amendment.

1919, October 19 – TEXAS – The League of Voters of Texas was formed in San Antonio when the Texas Equal Suffrage Association dissolved.

1920, February 14 – League of Women Voters founded in Chicago during last meeting of the National Woman Suffrage Association as a "mighty experiment" to educate new women voters.

1920, August 18 – Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the proposed woman suffrage amendment, meeting the requirement that 3/4 of the states must ratify an amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

1920, August 26 – The Secretary of State quietly certified ratification of the 19th Amendment at 8 a.m. in his home – 72 years after the 1848 Seneca Falls resolution that women should have the right to vote.

National suffrage leaders – Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Alice Paul, Carrie Chapman Catt (founder LWVUS), Maud Wood Park (1st president of LWVUS)

TEXAS suffrage leaders – Minnie Fisher Cunningham, Jane Y. McCallum, Jessie Daniel Ames (1st president of LWV-TX)

★★★

Compiled by Patty Jantho, LWV-Collin County, from resources accessed March 7, 2013:

Rothsdotter, Mary (National Women's History Project). *Chronology of Woman Suffrage Movement Events*, at <http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/chronology-woman-suffrage-movement-events>

Taylor, A. Elizabeth. "Woman Suffrage," in *The Handbook of Texas Online*, at <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/viw01>

★★★

"There never will be complete equality until women themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers." – Susan B. Anthony