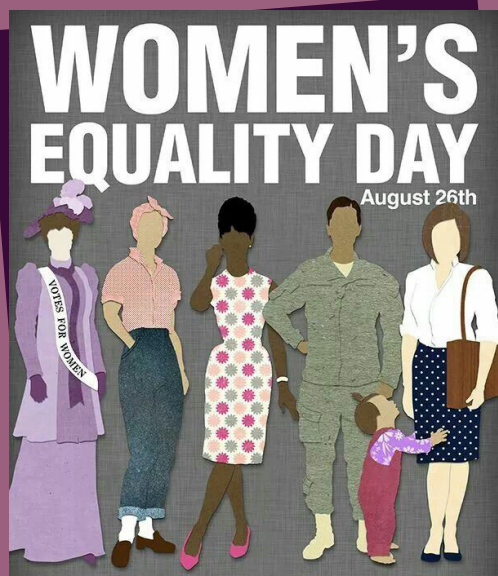


# WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

# HARD WON NOT DONE™

08.26.2021

In 1971, Congress designated August 26<sup>th</sup> as Women's Equality Day to remind us of the struggles of the past, present, and future. When the U.S. Constitution was written, women were excluded from many rights and privileges of citizenship, the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment changed that. Ratified by Congress on August 18<sup>th</sup>, and certified on August 26, 1920, it declares that "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."<sup>1</sup> This milestone took decades of agitation, violence and protest to achieve. This year marks the 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of women in the United States winning the right to vote. This courageous, 74-yearlong movement was carried out by tens of thousands of women and men working for a more perfect union. To win the right to vote, women circulated countless petitions, gave speeches, published newspapers, and traveled the country to gain support. They were frequently ridiculed, harassed and sometimes attacked by mobs and police and were beaten, jailed and tortured. On August 26, 1920, their goal was achieved with the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment -- women had won the right to vote and hold public office.



"After ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, millions of other women, most significantly black Americans in the South, remained disenfranchised. The 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment, ratified in 1870, had attempted to combat racial discrimination in voting but left open voter-suppression measures such as poll taxes, literacy tests, and grandfather clauses, all of which Southern states used as obstacles to prevent black men—and, after 1920, black women—from participating in electoral politics. At the same time, Latinas and American Indians who did not speak and write English were refused ballots in cities and states where they constituted a significant share of the population, including Texas, Arizona, Florida, Alaska, and New York City."<sup>2</sup> The importance of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment cannot be understated. While it gave some women the right to vote, it took until The Voting Rights Act of 1965 to ensure there was no longer any legal discrimination regarding individual voting rights.



UAW-FORD  
Diversity Digest  
August 2021

Sources: 1. <https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-xix>  
2. <https://slate.com/human-interest/2016/08/hillary-clinton-and-the-myth-of-the-19th-amendment.html>  
3. <https://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/19th-amendment-1>

Photo Sources: Top Right: [19th-amendment-centennial.org](https://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/19th-amendment-1)  
Middle Right: [scmuseum.org/explore/exhibits/changing-exhibits/a-voice-of-her-own](https://scmuseum.org/explore/exhibits/changing-exhibits/a-voice-of-her-own)  
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