

The logo is a stylized graphic in gold and purple. At the top, the number '19' is in a large, bold, serif font, with a 'TH' in a smaller font to its upper right. This is set against a gold background with purple outlines. Below this, a horizontal gold bar with purple borders contains the text '1920 • A M E N D M E N T • 2020' in a bold, sans-serif font. The bar is flanked by stylized, jagged purple shapes. Below the bar, a larger gold rectangle with purple borders contains the text 'CELEBRATING WOMEN VOTERS' in a bold, sans-serif font. The entire logo is centered on a white background.

19TH

1920 • A M E N D M E N T • 2020

CELEBRATING WOMEN VOTERS

Suffrage Movement – 72 years

- It took 72 years between the [first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York](#) until the ratification of the [19th Amendment](#) in Nashville, Tennessee in the summer of 1920.
- In those years, more than 20 nations around the world had granted women the right to vote, along with 15 states, more than half of them in the West.
- Suffragists had marched en masse, been arrested for illegally voting and picketing outside the White House, gone on hunger strikes and endured brutal beatings in prison—all in the name of the American woman's right to vote.

Timeline of Suffrage Movement

1848 - Seneca Falls, NY – inaugural women's rights convention

- **Declaration of Sentiments adopted** – called for equality for women and for a resolution that women should seek the right to vote.
 - Suffrage resolution passes by a narrow margin, helped along by the support of the famed abolitionist [Frederick Douglass](#), an early ally of women's rights activists.

1869 - **Wyoming Passes Women's Suffrage Law** (1st state to grant right to vote)

- Tensions erupt within the women's rights movement over the recently ratified [14th Amendment](#) and the proposed [15th Amendment](#), which would give the vote to Black men, but not women.
- Stanton and Anthony's refusal to support ratification of the 15th Amendment leads to a public break with Douglass, and [alienates many Black suffragists](#).



Timeline of Suffrage Movement

1872 - Suffragists Arrested for Voting in NY

- Anthony and more than a [dozen other women](#) are arrested in Rochester, New York after illegally voting in the presidential election. Anthony unsuccessfully fought the charges, and the court fined her \$100, which she never paid.

1878 - California Senate Drafts Amendment

- [Senator Aaron Sargent of California](#) introduces a women's suffrage amendment to the U.S. Senate for the first time. Drafted by Stanton and Anthony, it reads: *"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."* (When Congress passes the amendment 41 years later, the wording will remain unchanged.)

Timeline of Suffrage Movement



NAWSA Forms

- The National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) forms with Elizabeth Stanton as president. The organization focuses on a state-by-state fight for voting rights.

1890

1896

Early 1900s

Black Suffragists Barred from Conventions

- Black women continue to face discrimination from white suffragists, especially as the white suffragists seek support in Southern states. In 1901 and 1903, the NAWSA conventions in Atlanta and New Orleans bar Black suffragists from attending.

Black Suffragists Organize National Group

- In addition to women's enfranchisement, the organization advocates for equal pay, educational opportunities, job training and access to childcare for Black women.

Timeline of Suffrage Movement

Alice Paul, Vice President of the National Women's Party creates **Militant Group**

- Paul leads a protest march of 5,000 to 10,000 women in Washington, D.C. on the day of Woodrow Wilson's inauguration. Protesters outside the White House call on Wilson to support women's suffrage.
- Protesters are arrested and jailed for obstructing sidewalk traffic; Paul and others undertake hunger strikes to bring attention to their cause.

1913

1916–1917

Jeanette Rankin, of Montana, a former NAWSA lobbyist, becomes the first woman elected to Congress.

- “Night of Terror” - On November 14, 1917, guards at the Occoquan Workhouse in Virginia beat and terrorize 33 women arrested for picketing. This becomes known as the “Night of Terror.”

Timeline of Suffrage Movement

1918 - President Wilson Changes Position, Supports Suffrage

- **January 1918** - Rep. Jeanette Rankin [opens debate](#) in the House of Representatives on a Constitutional amendment guaranteeing women's suffrage. The House votes in favor, but the amendment fails in the Senate. In a [speech to Congress in September](#), President **Wilson officially changes his position to support** a federal women's suffrage amendment.

1919 - House, Senate Pass Amendment, Ratification Effort Begins

- **May 21, 1919** - House passes what would become the 19th Amendment, popularly known as the Susan B. Anthony Amendment.
- **June 4, 1919** - Senate follows suit by a narrow margin
- Goes to the states to be ratified. **Ratification requires 36 states**; 11 states (Texas included) [vote to ratify by late July 1919](#).

Timeline of Suffrage Movement

1919 – Anti-ratification states

- **Georgia** - 1st to vote against ratification followed by **Alabama**. (Georgia won't formally ratify the 19th Amendment until 1970.)
- The “antis” draw strength from powerful business interests including the railroad, liquor and manufacturing industries, as well as religious and conservative groups.

January 1920 - Five More States Ratify

March 1920 - 35 States Ratify, One More Needed

June 1920 - Delaware's Vote Against Ratification Strikes a Blow

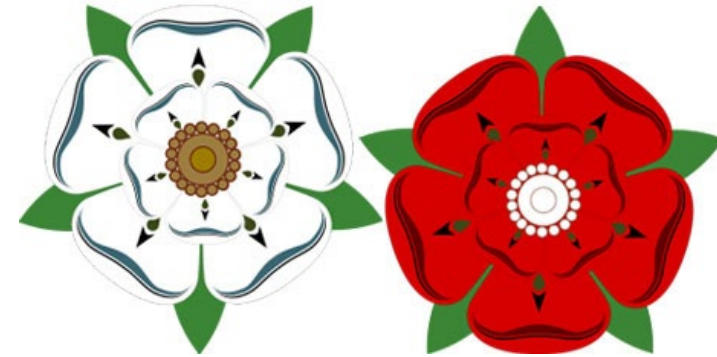
- State legislatures in [Connecticut](#), [Vermont](#), [Florida](#) decline to consider the amendment, leaving only North Carolina and Tennessee.

August 1920 - Tennessee Provides Final Vote

How Tennessee Came to Vote to Ratify

Suffs vs. Anti-Suffs

- In the so-called “**War of the Roses**,” supporters of suffrage wear white roses, while their opponents wear red ones.
- The Tennessee Senate votes to ratify, but the vote is tied in the House—until one legislator, **Harry Burns**, changes his vote after receiving a letter from his mother urging him to vote for women’s suffrage.



But . . . The fight wasn't over

Discriminatory laws, intimidation and other tactics of disenfranchisement prevented many women & men of color from being able to vote.

- Native American, Asian American, Latinx and African American suffragists had to continue the fight long after the 19th Amendment was ratified.
- **Interesting fact:** White suffragists had studied Native American government which treated women as equal democratic actors, but they didn't advocate for Native American women.

1924- Native Americans get recognized as U.S. citizens but still effectively barred from voting for the next four decades.

- Individual states still prevented them from voting with **literacy tests, poll taxes** and claims that **residence on a reservation** meant one wasn't also a resident of that state.

Not All Women Gained The Vote in 1920

1965 - Voting Rights Act passed. It was intended to protect all citizens right to vote BUT discrimination did not end.

1975 - Extension of the Voting Rights Act. This was necessary to prohibit discrimination against language minority citizens and to expand voting access to women who rely heavily on languages other than English.

1984 - Mississippi Becomes Last US State to Ratify 19th Amendment

The Role of Latinas in Suffrage – LUISA CAPETILLO

Latina women contributed to the success of the suffrage movement at both the state and federal levels, particularly with their efforts to reach out to Spanish-speaking women.

Luisa Capetillo – Writer/Labor Organizer in Puerto Rico; she worked to attain women's voting rights, which were first given to literate women in **1929** and all Puerto Rican women in **1935**.

- **1910** – became a writer for FLT (American Federation of Labor); traveled throughout Puerto Rico, educating and organizing women.
- Started her own newspaper "*La Mujer*" which confronted women's issues.

LUISA CAPETILLO

- **1919**- became first woman in Puerto Rico to wear pants. She was charged with a crime, but charges were later dropped. She did the same thing in Cuba and was jailed.
- **1919**- helped pass a minimum wage law in Puerto Rico.



JOVITA IDAR



Jovita Idar – Journalist, Activist and Suffragist;
Mexican-American, born in 1885 in Laredo, Texas

- Used her father's newspaper, *La Cronica*, to support women's suffrage and encourage women to vote.
- **1911** – Joined First Mexican Congress in Laredo and founded *La Liga Feminil Mexicalista* (League of Mexican Women), a feminist organization that provided education for Mexican-American students.

JOVITA IDAR

- When California granted women the right to vote, she urged women in Texas to “proudly raise your chins and face the fight.”
- **1913** – she crossed the border to serve as a nurse in Mexico for an organization “La Cruz Blanca”.
- She returned to Texas and began working for *El Progreso* newspaper

JOVITA IDAR

Idar wrote article protesting Pres. Woodrow Wilson's decision to send U.S. troops to the border. Rangers showed up to shut *El Progreso* down and she defended it arguing 1st Amendment, but they came back the next day and smashed and destroyed her printing presses.

Continued writing for *La Cronica* and advocated for fair treatment of Mexican-Americans.

Took on pen names *Astraea* (Greek goddess of justice) and *Ave Negra* (Blackbird) and wrote about equal rights for women, urging women to educate themselves and seek independence from men.

JOVITA IDAR

Married and moved to San Antonio where she became active in the Democratic Party, became a **precinct judge** for the party, and promoted equal rights for women.

Became **editor** for a Methodist church publication, volunteered as an **interpreter** for Spanish-speaking patients in a hospital and started a **free kindergarten** for children.

“When you educate a woman, you educate a family.”

ADELINA OTERO-WARREN



Adelina Otero-Warren – Woman's Suffragist, Educator and Politician.

- **1881**- born in New Mexico to family of Hispanic elite (known as Hispanos). Her parents were well-educated; she was raised by an Irish governess, Mary Elizabeth Doyle.
- Her mother was an activist for social and educational developments and became director of Santa Fe's Board of Education.

ADELINA OTERO-WARREN

Adelina studied in Missouri and developed her social consciousness and imparted the idea that women could have careers as teachers and community leaders.

1897 – she moves to Santa Fe, marries Lt. Warren and two years later divorces him, but calls herself a “widow” to avoid the stigma of divorce and tells everyone he died.

1912 – New York; became active in Anne Morgan’s settlement house, organization that aided working-class women.

ADELINA OTORO WARREN

1914 – Adelina returns to Santa Fe when her mother dies. She becomes close to artists, writers and the **Congressional Union for Women's Suffrage** (forerunner to National Woman's Party).

- She rises within the ranks of the state Congressional Union (CU). (The CU wanted Hispanas in the campaign to ensure New Mexico ratified the 19th Amendment).
- She becomes the **first Mexican-American state leader of the CU** in New Mexico.

Seeks support for suffrage through leadership roles as Chair of Legislative Committees for the Republican Party and New Mexico Federation of Women's Clubs.

- She lobbied New Mexico Congressmen to vote in favor of the 19th Amendment.
- She was influential because her uncle and other Hispanic relatives were elected leaders.
- Alice Paul, leader of the **CU, credits her with ensuring New Mexico ratified the 19th Amendment.**

ADELINA OTORO WARREN

1917-1929 – Served as one of New Mexico's first female gov't officials as Santa Fe Superintendent of Instruction. She committed to improving education of Hispanics, Native Americans and students in rural areas.

1919 – New Mexico's Governor appoints her to State Board of Health and she becomes chair of the committee.

1922 - received **Republican Party nomination to run for Congress**, becoming **the first Latina to run for Congress**. News of her divorce came out during the election and concerns on her stance on Spanish-language instruction in schools and she was defeated by the Democrat.

1923 – Briefly serves as inspector of Indian schools in Santa Fe county. She advocated against sending Native children to boarding schools off the reservation.

1930s-1940s – Appointed Director of Literacy Education for the Civilian Conservation Corps, a position she was appointed to by President Roosevelt. She also takes on preserving historic structures in Santa Fe and Taos and publishes some books.

She passed away in 1965 at the age of 83.

Latinas in Elected Office

Barbara Vucanovich (R – Nevada) – 1st Latina elected to U.S. House of Representatives; elected in 1982; retired in 1997. Won with the slogan “What Congress needs is a tough grandmother.”



Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D- Nevada)– 1st Latina U.S. Senator; elected in 2017. Served as AG of Nevada from 2007-2015.



Latinas in Elected Office

Veronica Escobar and Sylvia Garcia

- First Latinas from Texas to serve in Congress
- Both elected in 2018
- Cong. Escobar – El Paso; had served as County Judge and County Commissioner
- Cong. Garcia – Houston; had served as a State Senator and County Commissioner.
- Both part of record-breaking trend – over 200 women ran for Congress in 2018.



**We've come a long way baby BUT
we still have a long way to go**



2018 – YEAR OF THE WOMAN

- Women won more than 60% of the seats that Democrats flipped in the House. (38 Ds and 4 Rs)
- Overall, **127** women are serving in Congress – 25 in the Senate and 102 in the House.

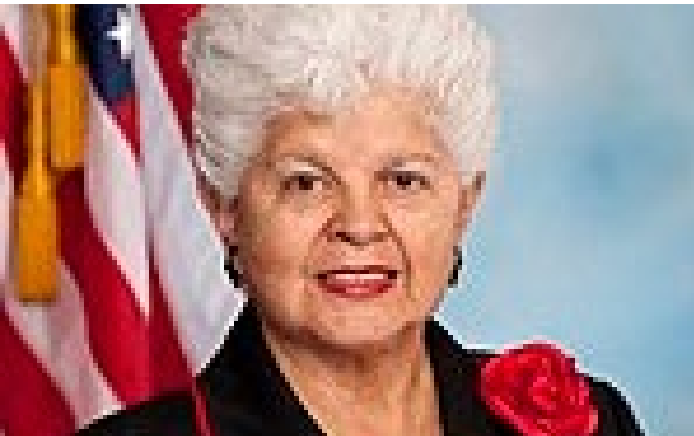
BUT - WOMEN ARE STILL FIGHTING FOR PARITY.

Women make up **25%** of the US Senate and **23%** of the US House but comprise **almost 51%** of the U.S. population.



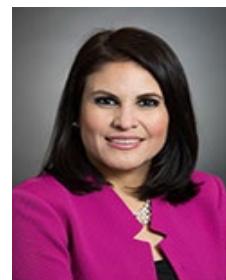
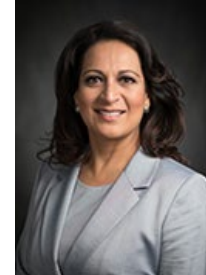
Latinas in Congress are even fewer

Only **18** Latinas have served in the U.S. House of Representatives and **5** of those were elected in 2018. (out of 435 members)



Texas Legislature by the Numbers

- Only **168** women have been elected to the Texas Legislature. Even if all were alive and still in office today, they still would be unable to fill the 181 seats that comprise the House and Senate.
- **42** Seats (out of 181) in the Texas House and Senate are held by women (2019 figures). **14** of those are Latina.



TEXAS LEGISLATURE

36% of the entire Texas Legislature are people of color (both men and women) whereas people of color make up **58%** of all Texans.

