



2018

WOMEN'S VOTE CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE TOOLKIT

PREPARED BY

WVCI

<https://www.2020centennial.org/>

OVERVIEW



Congratulations! You have embarked on a journey to celebrate the Women’s Vote Centennial. In 1920, women gained the right to vote with the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and in 2020 communities and states throughout our nation will celebrate the centennial.

The Women’s Vote Centennial Initiative is a collaboration of women-centered organizations working to coordinate and amplify the centennial celebrations across the nation. Several communities and states have commemorated the centennial of their state giving women the right to vote (pre 1920), and others are now preparing for 2020. In this guide we outline several ways you can add your community to the list by organizing, educating and celebrating. Below you will find more detailed descriptions of individual projects. Please feel free to reach out to us or the project organizer for more information.



ORGANIZING

WORK WITH ESTABLISHED GROUPS

There may be organizations which are already planning activities in your state or community. The WVCI is working to help identify those groups, and the more we publicize our efforts, the easier it will be to find each other. We recommend you connect with existing groups first, before starting a new initiative. The League of Women Voters, the American Association of University Women and other organizations in many states are planning 2020 activities. To find other existing groups, check the [How Women Won the Vote Gazette](#) and/or the [WVCI website](#).



ORGANIZING CONT.

PUT TOGETHER A COALITION OR START A COMMISSION

In 2017, Congress passed legislation creating the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission and provided a \$2 million appropriation for the group. Stay connected with WVCI for updates on the Commission.

Activists have already created several state commissions. New York, Arkansas, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Maryland, and Washington state have already done so. Consider creating a centennial commission in your state or a coalition of interested groups. Ask what you can do.

BUILD A MONUMENT

A monument (or statue, plaque, stained-glass window, artwork, etc.) can be a lasting commemoration honoring the accomplishments of women.

The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial (www.suffragistmemorial.org) will commemorate the 5 million women from every state, race and and nationality who fought for 72 years to win the constitutional right to vote. Located in Occoquan, Virginia, where many suffragists were jailed and force fed, it will commemorate the full 72 fight for women's suffrage. Dedication is scheduled for 2020.

The Virginia Women's Monument Commission was started in 2010 and is scheduled to complete a monument honoring the contributions of 12 outstanding women who made significant contributions to Virginia in 2019.

Other monuments include the Ida B. Wells monument in Chicago, Tennessee statues, stained glass of Susan B. Anthony, Suffrage Monument in US Capitol, and the Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony statue in Central Park, New York.



JOIN WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE TRAILS

In honor of the 2020 centennial, the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites is leading the effort to develop a nation-wide Votes for Women Trail. The Trail will highlight the role of each state in the 72-year battle to achieve women's suffrage. This project is truly a grassroots effort. A coordinator in each state will lead efforts to find and to research sites that have a history with the women's suffrage movement. The volunteers enter that information into a comprehensive database that will be used to populate an interactive nationwide map, which will represent a more complete story of the struggle for women's suffrage. Interested in volunteering? Please contact Marsha Weinstein today at mweinst413@gmail.com or call her at 502-819-2537. Our initial goal is to identify 1,000 sites by January 1, 2019. Check them out.

<http://ncwhs.org/index.php/projects/trails/293-votes-for-women-trail>

EDUCATING

PROVIDE SPEAKERS IN THE SCHOOLS

The best way to engage students in the celebration of women's victory is to include the suffrage story in their school curriculum. Work with your local school system to engage professors or local experts to share their expertise on women's history as it relates to the lessons in different grade levels.

HOLD AN EVENT OR START A SERIES

Public libraries and historical societies are always interested in new programming ideas. Contact the staff at some local institutions and encourage them to schedule suffrage-related programs to celebrate 2020. Possible topics: Who were suffrage supporters in your state? How did they help win passage of the 19th Amendment? What did they do? Where did they work? What still needs to be done today?
<http://www.nwhp.org/performers-speakers/why-hire-performers/>

WORK WITH A YOUTH GROUP

Ensuring young people understand the importance of early suffragists and women's rights advocates is an essential part of our work for the centennial and beyond. Encourage organized youth groups to include what women did. Consider approaching your local Boys and Girls Club and Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts to interest them in the suffrage movement. The National Park Service has a Junior Suffragist booklet which can be found at https://www.nps.gov/nama/learn/kidsyouth/upload/BEPA_Junior_Suffragist_Book.pdf.

FIND INFORMATION ABOUT WOMEN'S HISTORY IN YOUR COMMUNITY OR STATE

Libraries, state and community history museums, university special collections and archives are great sources for local women's history. In addition, contact any area historic sites or landmarks for specialized information. Established women's groups may also have information on local history. Check the list of books about state woman suffrage efforts on the [2020centennial.org](http://www.nwhp.org/) website.
<http://www.nwhp.org/>

SHARE SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES

Social media is an excellent way to educate others about the centennial. Follow the WVCI on social media, share, and then create your own content relevant to your state using the official hashtag #2020Centennial. Consider using one of the following in addition to #2020Centennial to share experiences when posting:

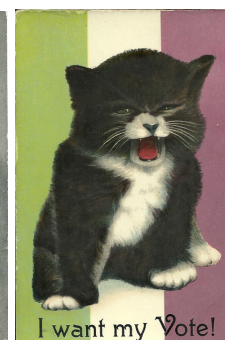
#SuffrageAt100, #RightToVote, #WomenDisobey, #GetRadical, #Vote100 #WomenInPolitics #HerStory #FeministFriday #WomenVote

Facebook:

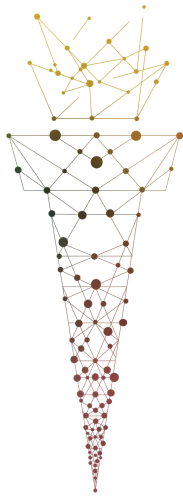
<https://www.facebook.com/2020Centennial.org/>

Twitter: @2020Centennial

Instagram: 2020Centennial



COMMEMORATING /CELEBRATING



PUSH FOR LEGISLATION/PROCLAMATIONS

What better way to pay homage to the work needed to pass the 19th Amendment than to support additional legislation promoting women's rights? Encourage lawmakers to commemorate the centennial with a proclamation as well as a state commission. Consider identifying legislators who may be interested in introducing a bill. The New York State commission bill provides an example for the establishment of a commission:

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2015/s2388/amendment/a>

Examples of resolutions/proclamations are:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-resolution/405/text>

Look up your state's legislative history on suffrage. Information can also be found in the Gazette.

http://www.nwhp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018_gazette_web.pdf

HOLD AN ISSUE-RELATED SOCIAL JUSTICE EVENT
Women's rights activism often occurs in conjunction with advocacy for other issues. Consider holding a forum to educate your community on economic or social justice issues and incorporate suffrage and other women's rights issues.

See Gazette for example. http://www.nwhp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018_gazette_web.pdf

PLAN A PARADE OR EVENT IN YOUR CITY

In June 1919, Congress passed the 19th Amendment and sent it to the states for ratification. Several communities are launching their centennial activities with a June 2019 parade or event to commemorate the passage of the amendment.

Ratification dates for the 19th Amendment offer another opportunity for events or activities. Check the date your state ratified and plan around that. <https://www.ncpedia.org/media/map/ratification-19th>

ENCOURAGE EXHIBITS AT MUSEUMS AND OTHER VENUES

Several museums and institutions in Washington DC and elsewhere are already planning women's suffrage exhibits. Encourage others. Consider supplementing current exhibits or encouraging museums to add additional pieces highlighting women's history. Encourage friends and family to provide suffrage artifacts (pins, sashes, etc.) for display.

The Missouri History Museum will feature a 2020 exhibit titled "We Demand: Groundbreaking St. Louis Women" from April 4, 2020-May 9, 2021.

One current exhibit is showing at the Frick Museum in Pittsburgh, PA.

<http://www.thefrickpittsburgh.org/Exhibition-Driving-the-Disenfranchised-The-Automobiles-Role-in-Womens-Suffrage>

Another interesting exhibit combining art and suffrage will be at the Brandywine River Museum of Art (www.brandywine.org) in PA.

Iowa has posted an online exhibit: <http://sdrc.lib.uiowa.edu/exhibits/suffrage/>

COMMEMORATING /CELEBRATING

PRODUCE ART

Art is an excellent and creative way to educate our communities about suffrage. Consider creating something new or commissioning artists to draw, paint, write, sculpt, act, direct or honor a person, event or theme associated with women's rights. Example: *It's My Party*, Screenplay by Ann Timmons and *Black Suffragist*

RECREATE A HISTORICAL EVENT

Cities across the nation hold reenactments to commemorate their history. Work with your locality to include a reenactment of a significant women's history or local suffrage event, or enhance the role of women in an already planned event such as a Fourth of July parade. If you wish to hire a performer, the National Women's History Project website includes a list of performers listed nationally and by state. Many do presentations related to suffrage: <http://www.nwhp.org/performers-speakers/national/>

HOLD AN EQUALITEA

Tea has traditionally been a way for women to socialize and organize. Consider hosting an "equalitea" to educate your community about the suffrage movement or honor local women leaders. Cookbooks were another way suffragists spread the word. Consider a "Suffrage Feast".

*Get
engaged!*
