



U.S. Senate Unites to Affirm Women's Voting Rights

WASHINGTON, DC - June 3, 2019 - During one of the most divisive seasons in political history, U.S. Senators will unite in reaffirming the 19th Amendment Tuesday, 100 years to the date from their original vote. The Senate will come to the floor wearing yellow roses, the historic symbol for women's suffrage. Suffrage supporters in the Tennessee Legislature wore yellow roses when they became the 36th and final state to ratify the 19th Amendment. Passage in the U.S. Senate on June 4, 1919 was the final hurdle before the race to ratification began.

The Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission

The Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission is the official federal commission tasked with coordinating the year-long commemoration of the centennial of women's voting rights. The commission will plan national events and coordinate with states as they plan centennial efforts.

The ideologically diverse 14-member commission includes Chairwoman **Kay Coles James**, President of the conservative think tank, the Heritage Foundation and longtime Democrat Senator **Barbara Mikulski** (Ret.). Former two-term lieutenant governor of Wisconsin, **Rebecca Kleefisch**, serves as Executive Director of the commission.

"The Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission brings together 14 commissioners from wildly unique backgrounds to lead the way for the nation to stand united in affirming women's rights," said **Kleefisch**. "We will spend the next year and a half honoring the bravery and determination of the men and women who would not back down until women had the freedom to vote."

WomensVote100.org is the official website for the federal commission. The site features toolkits for centennial planning across states and communities, events and resources across the nation, educational tools and videos, pictures and profiles of suffragists and 19th amendment information.

Times Have Changed

As both major political parties battle for the women's vote, the long-fought struggle for women to gain access to the ballot box experiences new victories in the 21st century. Suffragists would be pleased to know today women's voting outpaces that of men. In 1872, almost half a century before the 19th Amendment was passed, Victoria Woodhull became the first woman to run for president. Today there are six women vying for president. The 116th Congress boasts more women than at any other time in history.

Learn from the Commissioners



The commission boasts 14 dynamic leaders spanning a diverse professional and ideological landscape.

Commissioners are available for interviews to discuss:

- The importance in commemorating the suffrage centennial
- The importance of sharing the full often untold story of how African-American women fought for women's suffrage
- The commission's mission and goals
- Upcoming events and activities sponsored by the commission
- Why members of Congress are wearing yellow roses and the significance of the yellow rose in the women's vote movement

Chairwoman Kay Coles James - President, The Heritage Foundation

Kay Coles James is President of The Heritage Foundation where she has served on the board of trustees for 13 years. Mrs. James' commitment to the principles of free enterprise and individual freedom are evidenced in her career of public service that spans three decades. She has served as director of the Office of Personnel Management, Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Services and Dean of the Robertson School of Government at Regent University.

Vice Chairwoman Former Senator Barbara Mikulski

Former Senator Barbara Mikulski's political career spans over four decades. She proudly served the people of Maryland in the U.S. Congress for forty years, becoming the longest-serving woman in U.S. Congressional history in the process. Her first elected office was to the City Council of Baltimore in 1971. She then served in the U.S. House of Representatives for a decade prior to her election to the U.S. Senate in 1986, when she became the first Democratic woman elected to the U.S. Senate in her own right.

Commissioner Jennifer Siebel Newsom - First Partner of California

Jennifer Siebel Newsom is a filmmaker, advocate, thought leader, and the First Partner of California. After graduating from Stanford's Graduate School of Business, she wrote, directed, and produced the 2011 award-winning documentary MissRepresentation and launched TheRepresentation Project, a nonprofit that uses film and media to challenge limiting gender stereotypes and shift norms. Today, Jennifer serves on the advisory boards for The Imagine Bus Project, The Common Sense Media Gender Initiative, and Emerge America, in addition to the Suffrage Centennial Commission. She and her husband Governor Gavin Newsom have four young children and reside in Sacramento.

Commissioner Penny Young Nance - President Concerned Women For America



Penny Nance, CEO and President of Concerned Women for America (CWA), is a recognized national authority on cultural, children's, and women's issues. As the CEO and President of the nation's largest public policy women's organization, Nance oversees more than 500,000 participating CWA members across the country, over 400 Prayer/Action Chapters and Home teams, 40 Young Women for America (YWA) Chapters, and 600 trained leaders, and is also the president of Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee (CWALAC), serving as the principal spokesperson for both entities.

Commissioner Colleen Shogan - Assistant Deputy Librarian for Collections and Services, Library of Congress

Colleen Shogan is the Assistant Deputy Librarian for Collections and Services at the Library of Congress and an adjunct professor of government at Georgetown University. Shogan previously served as the deputy director at the Congressional Research Service and as a policy staffer in the U.S. Senate. A political scientist by training, Shogan has published numerous research articles, essays and four books. She has taught American politics at numerous universities.

Executive Director - Rebecca Kleefisch

Rebecca Kleefisch served two terms as the 44th Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin, the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment. She is the former Chairman of the Aerospace States Association and a founding Co-Chairman of Right Women Right Now, an organization encouraging women to run for office. Rebecca is a former marketing company owner and a recovering journalist. For a complete list of commissioners visit WomensVote100.org.

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The Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission was established by Congress to commemorate and coordinate the nationwide celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and to educate the American people about the efforts and undertakings of the women's suffrage movement in the United States. Learn more by visiting womensvote100.org.