



## 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENT

The year 2020 marks the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing and protecting the women's right to vote. This historical centennial offers an opportunity to commemorate a milestone and to explore its relevance to the issues of equal rights today.

Suffragists began their organized fight for women's suffrage in 1848 during the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls,

New York. For the next 72 years, women leaders lobbied, marched, picketed, and protested for the right to the ballot.

The U.S. House of Representatives finally approved the “Susan B. Anthony Amendment,” which guaranteed women the right to vote, on May 21, 1919; the U.S. Senate followed two weeks later, and then the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment went to the states for ratification. Thirty-six states needed to approve the Amendment for it to become part of the Constitution. On February 8, 1920, New Jersey ratified the amendment and finally on August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36<sup>th</sup> and final state needed to ratify. A proclamation declaring the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment ratified and part of the U.S. Constitution came on August 26, 1920, forever protecting American women’s right to vote. Today, more than 68 million women vote in the elections because of the courageous suffragists who never gave up the fight for equality.