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| **Timeline for Women's Rights** | |
| **1777** | |
|  | The original 13 states pass laws that prohibit women from voting. Abigail Smith Adams, wife of John Adams, the second president, and mother of John Quincy Adams, the sixth president, writes that women "will not hold ourselves bound by any laws which we have no voice." *(Digital History ID 2267)* |
| **1826** | |
|  | The first public high schools for girls open in New York and Boston. The American Journal of Education wrote that the school should give "women such an education as shall make them fit wives for well educated men, and enable them to exert a salutary influence upon the rising generation." *(Digital History ID 2268)* |
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| **1848** | |
| Spearheaded by Lucretia Mott & Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the Seneca Falls Convention was the first women's rights convention. It advertised itself as "a convention to discuss the social, civil, and religious condition and rights of woman". Held in Seneca Falls, New York, it spanned two days over July 19–20, 1848. | |
| **1850** | |
| (10/23) | The first National Women’s Rights Convention is held in Worcester, Massachusetts, attracting more than 1,000 participants. National conventions continue to be held yearly (except for 1857) through 1860. *(Digital History ID 1097)* |
| **1869** | |
| (11/23) | Lucy Stone, Henry Blackwell, Julia Ward Howe, and others form the American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA)that focuses exclusively on gaining voting rights for women through amendments to individual state constitutions. The organization protested the confrontational tactics of the National Woman Suffrage Association and tied itself closely to the Republican Party while concentrating solely on securing the vote for women state by state. *(Digital History ID 2228)* |
| (5/15) | Susan Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton form the National Woman Suffrage Association with the primary goal to achieve voting rights for women through a Congressional amendment to the US Constitution. *(Digital History ID 2227)* |
| **1870** | |
| (02/03) | The 15th Amendment, one of three Amendments passed in response to the Civil War, prohibits the federal government or the state from denying citizens the right to vote based on “race, color, or previous condition of servitude.” Although the Fifteenth Amendment does not specifically prohibit women from voting, it does not specifically guarantee them the right either. Approximately 150 women attempt to vote in 1870, including the Grimke sisters in Boston, Sojourner Truth in Battle Creek, Michigan, and Matilda Joselyn Gage in New York. While states begin to liberalize their laws as early as 1893, the right of all women to vote will not officially become law until ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment on August 18, 1920. *(Digital History ID 2245)* |
| **1878** | |
|  | The Susan B. Anthony Amendment, to guarantee women the right to vote, is first introduced in the U.S. Congress. Congress refuses to act on her proposed amendment. Anthony continues to appear before every Congress from 1869 to 1906 to ask for passage of a voting rights amendment. *(Digital History ID 2251)* |
| **1890** | |
|  | After several years of negotiations, the National Woman Suffrage Association and the American Woman Suffrage Association merge to form the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA)under the leadership of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Now the women's movement main organization, NAWSA works to obtain voting rights for women. *(Digital History ID 2229)* |
| **1893** | |
| (04/07) | Colorado is the first state to adopt an amendment giving women the right to vote. *(Digital History ID 473)* |
| **1919** | |
|  | The federal woman suffrage amendment is passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate. It is sent to the states for ratification. The National Woman's Party begins a campaign to obtain ratification of 19th Amendment by 36 state legislatures - the required three-fourths majority at the time. *(Digital History ID 2233)* |
| **1920** | |
| (08/18) | 19th Amendment to the US Constitution is ratified, granting women the right to vote. [Learn more...](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=2&psid=3207) *(Digital History ID 152)* |
| **1960** | |
| (05/09) | The Food and Drug Administration approves the birth control pill as safe for women to use. *(Digital History ID 577)* |
| **1963** | |
| (02/25) | Betty Friedan publishes her highly influential book,*The Feminine Mystique* which describes the dissatisfaction felt my middle-class American housewives with the narrow role imposed on them by society. the book immediately becomes a best seller. According to *The New York Times* obituary of Friedan in 2006, it "ignited the contemporary women's movement in 1963 and as a result permanently transformed the social fabric of the United States and countries around the world" and "is widely regarded as one of the most influential nonfiction books of the 20th century." [Learn more...](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=2&psid=3339) *(Digital History ID 83)* |
| **1966** | |
| (06/28) | National Organization for Women (NOW) is formed by a group of feminists including Betty Friedan while attending the Third National Conference of Commissions on the Status of Women. It becomes the largest women's rights group in the United States, and begins working to end sexual discrimination, especially in the workplace, by means of legislative lobbying, litigation, and public demonstrations. [Learn more...](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=2&psid=3341) *(Digital History ID 77)* |
| **1967** | |
| (10/13) | Executive Order 11375 (amending Executive Order 11246) expands President Lyndon Johnson's affirmative action policy of 1965 to cover discrimination based on gender. As a result, federal agencies and contractors must take active measures to ensure that women as well as minorities enjoy the same educational and employment opportunities as white males. *(Digital History ID 2240)* |
| **1968** | |
| (08/05) | The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issues revised guidelines on sex discrimination, making it clear that the widespread practice of publishing "help wanted" advertisements that use "male" and "female" column headings violates Title VII. This ruling is upheld in 1973 by the Supreme Court, and opens the way for women to apply for higher-paying jobs hitherto open only to men. *(Digital History ID 2241)* |
| **1972** | |
| (03/22) | Congress sends the proposed Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the Constitution to the states for ratification. Originally drafted by Alice Paul in 1923, the amendment reads: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." Congress places a seven year deadline on the ratification process, and although the deadline extends until 1982, the amendment does not receive enough state ratifications. It is still not part of the U.S. Constitution. *(Digital History ID 817)* |
| (06/23) | Title IX of the Education Amendments bans sex discrimination in schools. It states: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance." As a result of Title IX, the enrollment of women in athletics programs and professional schools increases dramatically. *(Digital History ID 2242)* |
| **1981** | |
| (09/21) | The U.S. Senate votes unanimously to confirm Sandra Day O’Connor as the first woman Supreme Court Justice. She was nominated by President Ronald Reagan. *(Digital History ID 118)* |

1. Find the years for the following events:
   1. Colonial laws forbidding women voting:
   2. Seneca Falls Convention:
   3. The establishment of women’s suffrage groups (could be multiple years):
   4. The first state law ratified for women suffrage:
   5. The 19th Amendment:
2. What statements or generalizations can be made regarding the time between events above?
3. Find the years for the following events:
   1. Birth Control is approved by the FDA:
   2. The establishment of women’s equal rights groups:
   3. Laws requiring equal woman pay:
   4. Laws banning discrimination of women in the workplace:
   5. Laws banning discrimination of women in schools:
4. What statements or generalizations can be made regarding the time between events above?
5. Summarize the Women’s Equality movement. Briefly discuss how its focus and goals have changed over time. Lastly, discuss the successes of the movement:

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