



You
shape
history
every
time
you
vote.



Women's Vote Centennial

COLORADO // 2020

Commemoration. Events. Impact.

Historical Timeline, 1877-1920 – Women's Suffrage Movement

Three critical years marked the progress of Colorado's women's suffrage movement, leading up to the 19th Amendment:

- 1877** Women's suffrage referendum was put before Colorado voters for the first time. It failed to pass but did give women the right to vote in school elections and to hold school offices in Colorado.
- 1893** Colorado women's suffrage referendum was held on November 7, 1893, to ratify a proposed constitutional amendment to prohibit discrimination against women voting. The referendum passed, making Colorado voters the first to extend voting rights beyond men. This took place more than a quarter century before the national women's suffrage act in 1920.
- 1920** Passed by Congress on June 4, 1919, and ratified on August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment granted most American women the right to vote. Colorado was one of 35 states that already recognized women's voting rights before the passing of the 19th Amendment.

Historical Timeline, 1922-1970 – Others Excluded from Voting

Even with the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, many people were still excluded from voting in the United States. For example:

- 1922** Supreme Court rules that people of Japanese ancestry are not eligible to become naturalized citizens.
- 1924** The Indian Citizenship Act grants citizenship to Native Americans but many western states limit voting rights.
- 1943** The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which prohibited citizenship for people with Chinese ancestry, is repealed in an effort to strengthen World War II alliance between U.S. and China
- 1946** The Luce-Celler Act allows Filipino Americans and Indian Americans to naturalize and become U.S. citizens; the Act also establishes quotas that allowed 100 people from India and 100 people from the Philippines to immigrate to the U.S. each year.
- 1952** The Walter-McCarran Act grants all people of Asian ancestry to become citizens.
- 1962** New Mexico becomes the final state to enfranchise Native American voters.
- 1965** The Voting Rights Act of 1965 suspends literacy test in the Deep South and provides federal enforcement of voting rights in an effort to eradicate Jim Crow Laws designed to limit African American voting.
- 1970** The 1970 Voting Rights Act prohibits literacy test in 20 states.