

Dear Friend,

New York State played a prominent role in the women's suffrage movement in the 19th and early 20th centuries, as the home to such luminaries as Susan B. Anthony and Sojourner Truth and site of the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention. And on November 6, 1917, New York voters approved an amendment to the state constitution granting women the right to vote, a measure which was defeated just two years prior.

On this historic 100th anniversary, we honor the trailblazing women who made this momentous victory possible and recommit ourselves to fighting for full gender equality today. I hope you find the information included in this pamphlet inspiring and instructive.

If you have any questions about this or any other community issue, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Harry B. Bronson
Member of Assembly

840 University Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607
585-244-5255
bronsonh@nyassembly.gov



Celebrating 100 years of women's suffrage in New York State



Courtesy of
Assemblymember
Harry B. Bronson

Notable New York Suffragists



Susan B. Anthony

Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906)—Anthony was a leading suffragist, as well as an advocate for temperance, education reform and the abolition of slavery, and the driving force behind the National Woman Suffrage Association.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902)—A gifted leader and skilled writer, Stanton authored the 1848 “Declaration of Sentiments,” which was signed by the attendees of the Seneca Falls Convention, declaring “all men and women are created equal.” Along with Anthony, she was a leader of the suffrage movement for half a century.



Elizabeth
Cady Stanton



Sojourner Truth

Sojourner Truth (1797-1883)—Born into slavery, Truth escaped her enslavement and became a forceful orator for women's suffrage and abolition. She is best known for her “Ain't I a Woman” speech at the 1851 Woman's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio.

Carrie Chapman Catt (1859-1947)—With Anthony, Catt reorganized the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1890, and then unified the movement with her secret “Winning Plan.” Catt called for the formation of a League of Women Voters in 1919.



Carrie
Chapman Catt



Sarah J.
Tompkins Garnet

Sarah J. Tompkins Garnet (1831-1911)—Garnet was the first African-American woman to found a suffrage organization and was also the first African-American female principal in the New York City public school system. She fought against racial discrimination and was a strong advocate for equal pay for equal work.

Suffrage Movement Timeline



Susan B. Anthony on her 50th birthday (1870)

1837

First National Female Anti-Slavery Society Convention is held in New York City and attended by 81 delegates from 12 states.

1848

First Women's Rights Convention is held in Seneca Falls, New York. The convention set the agenda of the suffrage movement for decades and produced the "Declaration of Sentiments," which called for equal treatment under the law.

1866

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony form the American Equal Rights Association supporting universal suffrage.

1872

Susan B. Anthony is arrested and brought to trial in Rochester for attempting to vote in the presidential election of that year. Anthony's penalty was to pay a \$100 fine, which she refused to pay.

1920

The 19th Amendment is ratified as Tennessee becomes the 36th state to pass the suffrage amendment. The 48-48 tie in the state legislature was broken when legislator Harry Burn, a vocal opponent of the measure, changed his vote at the request of his mother, Phoebe Ensminger Burn.

1917

New York State passes an amendment granting women the right to vote.

1912

Theodore Roosevelt's Progressive (Bull Moose) Party becomes the first national political party to adopt a women's suffrage plank.

1878

The Women's Suffrage Amendment is first introduced in Congress.

"Let us remember those who fought to pass the 19th amendment and encourage the next generation of women to continue the fight for full equality!"

– Assemblyman Harry Bronson

Women's suffrage float in the parade for the New York Fair (1913)



The suffrage movement was one of the most successful, nonviolent civil rights movements in American history. Activists gave speeches in churches, convention halls, meeting houses and on street corners and circulated countless petitions. They also published newspapers, pamphlets and magazines.