

## Timeline: U.S. Women's Political History

Year	Event
1450	Iroquois Confederacy formed
1519	<a href="#">La Malinche</a> & other women “presented” to Hernan Cortés
1620s	<a href="#">Thomas(sine) Hall</a> , an intersex person, faces court hearings over gender in colonial VA
1700s & 1800s	Haudenosaunee women (Iroquois) model egalitarian political institutions and inspire American suffragists
1773	Enslaved poet Phyllis Wheatley from Massachusetts challenges popular stereotypes that women & Africans have inferior intellect
1776	Abigail Adams calls upon her husband John Adams to “remember the ladies”, women in New Jersey have access to the vote, Public Universal Friend has a fever & is reborn
1777	All states remove the right to vote for women
1789	U.S. Constitution is ratified using English common law. The document includes the words “persons” and “people” and uses “he” for the presidency in Article II.
1790	Judith Sargent Murray of Massachusetts publishes the essay “On the Equality of the Sexes”
1792	British theorist Mary Wollstonecraft publishes “A Vindication of the Rights of Women”
1807	New Jersey changes state law to allow only tax paying white men right to vote
1830s	Abolitionist movement fuels a push for women's rights
1832	Female Anti-Slavery Society founded in Massachusetts by African American women, <a href="#">Maria Stewart challenges American racism</a> in Boston
1839	Mississippi becomes first state to allow women right to own property in their own name
1840	World Anti-slavery conference, women barred from full participation. Attendees include Elizabeth Cady Stanton & Lucretia Mott
<b>First Wave of Feminism Begins</b>	
1848	Seneca Falls Convention, writing of the Declaration of Sentiments, Married Women's Property Act
1850	Harriet Tubman becomes conductor on the underground railroad
1851	<a href="#">Sojourner Truth's speech</a> , “I am Strong as Any Man”
1852	Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe published

1864	Anna Dickinson first woman to speak in the House of Representatives
1865	Civil War ends, 13th Amendment ratified—over 2 million enslaved women freed
1866	American Equal Rights Association for universal suffrage founded by Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucy Stone, Frederick Douglass, Henry Blackwell and Susan B. Anthony. Elizabeth Cady Stanton first woman to run for House of Representatives from NY
1868	14th Amendment ratified and includes the equal protection, due process and privileges and immunities clauses. First time citizens and voters are defined as “male”
1869	Wyoming becomes first state to grant women’s suffrage, National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA) and American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA) founded
1870	15th Amendment is ratified
1872	Victoria Woodhull ran for president affiliated with the Equal Rights Party, Susan B. Anthony arrested for voting for Ulysses S. Grant
1873	<i>Bradwell v. Illinois</i> : SCOTUS rules against Myra Bradwell, holds a state can bar women from practicing law, Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) founded, Comstock Act
1875	<i>Minor v. Happersett</i> : SCOTUS holds the privileges & immunities clause of the 14th Amendment does not grant women the right to vote
1879	Belva Lockwood is first women to try a case in front of SCOTUS
1890	NAWSA founded
1892	Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin establishes the Woman’s Era Club in Boston, Colored Women’s League founded in D.C.
1893	Matilda Gage publishes <u>Women, Church and the State</u>
1895	<u>The Woman’s Bible</u> published by Elizabeth Cady Stanton
1896	National Association of Colored Women (NACW) founded by Mary Church Terrell, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, Fanny Jackson Coppin and Frances Ellen Watkins Harper
1900	Carrie Chapman Catt becomes president of NAWSA
1902	Ida Craddock, an early pioneer for civil liberties, writes a suicide note protesting the Comstock Act
1908	<i>Muller v. Oregon</i> : SCOTUS upheld Oregon’s protective legislation limiting women to a 10 hour workday
1911	Women’s suffrage passed in California, Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire raises awareness for a need for protective legislation
1912	Woodrow Wilson elected president, Teddy Roosevelt endorses suffrage (Progressive/Bull

	<a href="#">Moose Party</a> ), Alice Paul chosen as chairman of NAWSA's Congressional Committee
1913	Suffrage march on Washington
1916	Margaret Sanger opens a birth control clinic in Brooklyn, Jeannette Rankin elected to Congress
1917	Silent Sentinels, NWP activists go on a hunger strike in Occoquan Workhouse (VA), "Night of Terror"
1920	19th Amendment ratified, granting women suffrage nationally, League of Women Voters & ACLU founded
<b>First Wave of Feminism Ends</b>	
1923	Equal Rights Amendment first introduced in Congress by National Woman's Party, Soledad Chacon elected as Secretary of State and becomes first woman of color elected to statewide office (New Mexico), <i>United States v. Bhagat Singh Thind</i> : SCOTUS rules Indo-Aryans not "white" under Naturalization Act of 1906 & therefore unable to vote
1925	Indian Citizenship Act, granted citizenship to indigenous women, Nellie Tayloe Ross elected first woman governor (WY)
1927	<i>Buck v. Bell</i> : SCOTUS case upholding eugenics
1933	Francis Perkins serves as Secretary of Labor in FDR's cabinet
1943	Chinese immigrants in U.S. given right to citizenship
1945	WWII ends, majority of women industrial workers lose their jobs
1949	NWP member <a href="#">Burnita Shelton Matthews</a> appointed by Truman to the U.S. district court from D.C.
1950	Margaret Chase Smith gives " <a href="#">Declaration of Conscience Speech</a> "
1952	Charlotta Bass becomes first Black woman to be nominated for VP ( <a href="#">Progressive Party</a> ), McCarran-Walter Act grants those with Asian ancestry citizenship & the right to vote
1955	Daughters of Bilitis founded in San Francisco
<b>Second Wave of Feminism Begins</b>	
1961	<i>Hoyt v. Florida</i> : SCOTUS upholds Florida law limiting jury service to women, holding "woman is still regarded as the center of home and family life"
1962	Fannie Lou Hamer attempts to vote in Mississippi, told to take a literacy test she fails, Thalidomide & Miss Sheri's pregnancy
1963	Equal Pay Act, Peterson Report (Presidential Commission on the Status of Women), <a href="#">The Feminine Mystique</a> published

1964	Phyllis Schlafly campaigns for Barry Goldwater, Civil Rights Act of 1964, free speech movement begins at UC Berkeley
1965	<i>Griswold v. Connecticut</i> : SCOTUS establishes a right to privacy, married couples have access to birth control, Patsy Mink elected as first woman of color in Congress, Selma march, Voting Rights Act
1966	Constance Baker Motley appointed by LBJ as the first Black woman to work as a federal judge
1967	SCUM Manifesto published by Valerie Solanas, LBJ issues Executive Order 11375 (affirmative action for women)
1968	Shirley Chisholm elected as the first Black woman in Congress, Miss America Protest, Solanas shoots Andy Warhol, Young Lords begin organizing
1969	California legalizes no fault divorce
1970/s	Shulamith Firestone publishes <i>The Dialectic of Sex</i> , Dolores Huerta organizes boycotts to promote better conditions for farm workers, abortion laws liberalized in NY
1971	<i>Reed v. Reed</i> : SCOTUS strikes down Idaho law giving automatic preference to men, declares women as “persons”
1972	Title IX of the Education Amendments Act bans discrimination based on sex in educational programs that receive federal funding, <i>Eisenstadt v. Baird</i> : SCOTUS case establishing unmarried person’s right to birth control, Shirley Chisholm runs for president, ERA passes Congress, Eagle Forum and Ms. Magazine founded
1973	<i>Roe v. Wade</i> : SCOTUS extends right to privacy, protects women's right to terminate a pregnancy making abortion legal nationwide, <i>Miller v. California</i> : SCOTUS clarifies obscenity law, creating the “Miller Test”, National Black Feminist Organization founded
1974	Congress bans housing discrimination based on sex & credit discrimination against women, Elaine Noble becomes first openly lesbian candidate elected to the state legislature in Massachusetts
1976	<i>Craig v. Boren</i> : SCOTUS establishes intermediate scrutiny for sex discrimination cases, overturns law permitting women to drink beer at a younger age than men, Ellen McCormack runs for president as a pro-life Democrat, <a href="#">Lindy Boggs</a> becomes first woman to chair a major party convention (Democrats), Hyde Amendment passes
1977	Houston Women’s Conference, Alice Paul dies, National Women's Studies Association founded
1978	<i>Madrigal v. Quilligan</i> : class action case <a href="#">challenging forced sterilization</a> of Mexican-American women in California
1979	Moral Majority created-promotes conservatism and opposes abortion, the ERA and gay rights

1981	<a href="#">Sandra Day O'Connor</a> nominated by President Reagan and confirmed on the Supreme Court (1st woman on SCOTUS), women barred from being drafted upheld as constitutional
1982	ERA fell 3 states short of ratification, militant actions for the ERA at the Illinois state legislature including a Fast for Justice and sit ins led by A Group of Women, <i>Plyler v. Doe</i> : SCOTUS rules all schoolchildren have access to education under equal protection clause of 14th Amendment, including undocumented students
1983	Andrea Dworkin testifies in Minneapolis in favor of anti-discrimination legislation
1984	Geraldine Ferraro runs for VP with Walter Mondale, <a href="#">Sonia Johnson</a> , founder of Mormons for ERA, runs for president ( <a href="#">Citizens Party</a> )
1985	<a href="#">Wilma Mankiller</a> becomes first woman chief of the Cherokee Nation
1986	Operation Rescue founded
1989	<i>Webster v. Reproductive Health Services</i> : SCOTUS allows states to ban public funding for abortion and public hospitals from providing abortion
<b>Third Wave of Feminism Begins</b>	
1991	Testimony of Anita Hill, Riot Grrrl movement
1992	“Year of the Woman”, Carol Moseley Braun elected from Illinois as first Black woman & first woman of color in the U.S. Senate
1993	Ruth Bader Ginsburg nominated by President Clinton & confirmed on SCOTUS as the 2nd woman on the Supreme Court, Family and Medical Leave Act becomes law
1994	Violence Against Women Act passed
1996	<i>United States v. Virginia</i> : SCOTUS strikes down male-only admissions of the Virginia Military Institute as a violation of the 14th Amendment
1999	Elizabeth Dole (Republican) runs for president
2000	<i>United States v. Morrison</i> : SCOTUS restricts parts of VAWA, including permitting victims of rape & domestic violence to sue their perpetrators in federal courts
2007	Nancy Pelosi (Democrat) becomes first woman Speaker of the House
<b>Fourth Wave of Feminism Begins? Dates are contested</b>	
2008	Hillary Clinton runs for president, first First Lady in American history to campaign for the nation’s highest office, Sarah Palin runs as first woman VP candidate for the GOP
2009	<a href="#">Sonia Sotomayor</a> nominated by President Obama, confirmed to SCOTUS as 3rd woman on the Supreme Court, Obama signs Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act
2010	<a href="#">Elena Kagan</a> nominated by President Obama, confirmed to SCOTUS as 4th woman on the Supreme Court, Affordable Healthcare Act passed

2013	<i>United States v. Windsor</i> : SCOTUS strikes down DOMA as a violation of the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment, VAWA reauthorized-extended to lesbians, immigrants & indigenous women on tribal lands
2014	<i>Hobby Lobby v. Burell</i> : SCOTUS holds a faith based exemption can apply to the AHA birth control mandate for private employers
2015	<i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i> : SCOTUS legalizes gay marriage nationwide
2016	<i>Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt</i> : SCOTUS upholds abortion rights, Black Lives Matter platform published
2017	Danica Roem, a notable advocate for the ERA, is elected from VA as first transgender person to serve in a state legislature
2018	Ilhan Omar (MN) & Rashida Tlaib (MI) elected as first Muslim women in Congress (Democrats)
2020	<a href="#">Amy Coney Barrett</a> nominated by President Trump and confirmed as 5th woman on SCOTUS
2022	<a href="#">Katanji Brown Jackson</a> nominated by President Biden and confirmed as the 6th woman on SCOTUS

**Sources:** National Women’s History Alliance, [National Women’s History Museum](#), [Center for American Women in Politics](#) and [Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence](#) by Kate Clarke Lemay