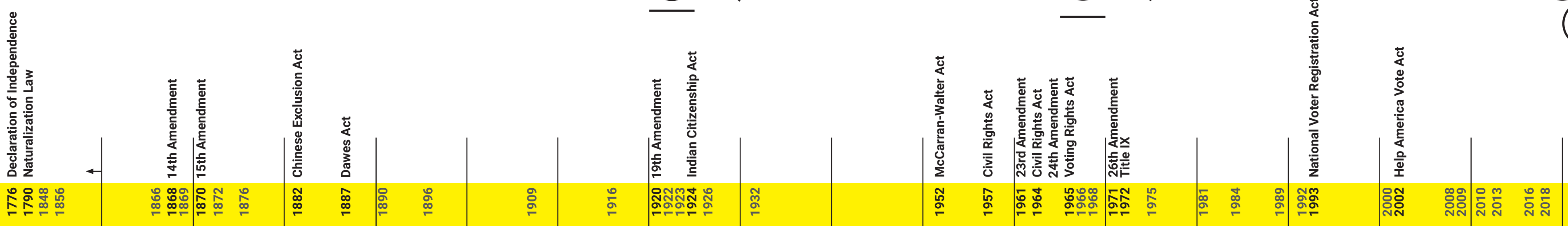


KEY MOMENTS in voting rights + women's fight for equality



1776
The **Declaration of Independence** is signed. Only men who own land can vote.

1790
The **Naturalization Law** passes, stating only "free white" immigrants can become naturalized citizens.

1848
Abolitionists, led by Frederick Douglass, and women's suffrage groups meet in Seneca Falls, NY at the **Women's Rights Convention**. The convention excluded black women.

Citizenship is granted to Mexicans living in territories captured by the US, but voting rights are denied.

1856
Voting rights are granted to all white men.

1868
The **14th Amendment** grants citizenship to former slaves, but voting regulation is determined by individual states.

1869
Wyoming becomes the first state to grant women the right to vote.

1870
The **15th Amendment** prevents federal or state governments to deny voting rights based on race. States utilize voting taxes, literacy tests, violence, and other intimidation tactics to restrict black citizens from voting.

1872
Activists Susan B. Anthony and Sojourner Truth attempt to vote. Anthony is arrested, and Truth is denied.

First woman to run for President:
Victoria Woodhull of the Equal Rights Party

1876
The Supreme Court rules that Native Americans are not US citizens, and cannot vote.

1882
The **Chinese Exclusion Act** blocks those of Chinese ancestry from becoming US citizens.

1887
The **Dawes Act** grants citizenship to Native Americans who cede their tribal affiliations.

1890
The **National American Women Suffrage Association** is formed, led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Lucy Stone, focusing on the right to vote for white women.

1896
The **National Association of Colored Women** is founded, led by Mary Church Terrell and Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, focusing on black women's rights.

1890's
Utah, Idaho and Colorado grant women the right to vote.

1909
The **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)** is formed, with Mary Church Terrell and Ida B. Wells as founding members.

1910's
Women march for voting rights in New York and Washington, D.C. The colors of purple, white, and yellow represent loyalty, purity, and hope.

1916
First woman elected to Congress:
Jeannette Rankin of Montana

1920
The **19th Amendment** is ratified to the US Constitution, granting women the right to vote.

Not all Native American or Asian women have citizenship. Many southern states find ways to prevent women of color from voting with Jim Crow laws.

The **League of Women Voters** is founded by suffragists to support women in public affairs and voting.

1922
The Supreme Court rules that those of Japanese ancestry are not US citizens, and cannot vote.

1923
The **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)** is introduced by Alice Paul in Seneca Falls.

1924
The **Indian Citizenship Act** grants citizenship to Native Americans, but many states enact policies that limit their vote.

1926
In Birmingham, Alabama, a group of black women are beaten by election officials while attempting to vote.

1932
First woman elected to Senate:
Hattie Caraway of Arkansas

1952
The **McCarran-Walter Act** grants those of Asian ancestry the right to become citizens.

1957
The **Civil Rights Act of 1957** allows the Justice Department to seek injunctions in voting rights cases.

1961
The **23rd Amendment** gives Washington D.C. residents the right to vote for President, but not Congressional representation.

1960's
Fannie Lou Hamer, Ella Baker, and Diane Nash are key figures in establishing voting rights for all within the civil rights movement.

State officials in the south refuse to allow black citizens to register to vote, using voting taxes, literacy tests and intimidation.

1964
Freedom Summer aims to register black voters in Mississippi.

The **Civil Rights Act of 1964** passes, promising equal employment, public integration, and limited voter literacy tests.

The **24th Amendment** states that the right to vote may not be denied in federal elections for failure to pay any tax.

First woman is put forward for nomination for President by a major political party:
Republican Margaret Chase Smith of Maine

First Asian American woman elected to Congress:
Patsy Mink of Hawaii

1965
At the completion of the Selma to Montgomery march, Martin Luther King Jr. calls for an end to many racial injustices, including voter discrimination.

The **Voting Rights Act** passes, removing discriminatory barriers that kept many people of color from voting. This is largely in response to protests and marches occurring after Alabama officials' brutality during black voter registration efforts. 450,000 black citizens in the southern states registered to vote within a year.

1966
Civil rights activist James Meredith is wounded by a sniper during a solo "Walk Against Fear" voter registration march from Tennessee to Mississippi. Nearly 4,000 black citizens register to vote the next day. Other civil rights leaders, including Martin Luther King, Jr. and Stokely Carmichael continue marching. Meredith rejoins the march at its endpoint in Mississippi.

1968
First black woman elected to Congress:
Shirley Chisholm of New York

1971
The **26th Amendment** lowers the voting age from 21 to 18. This is a result of Vietnam War protests, noting that soldiers were old enough to fight, but not to vote.

1970's
Women march for the **Equal Rights Amendment**, which would guarantee equal legal rights for all American citizens regardless of sex.

1971
The multi-partisan **National Women's Political Caucus** is founded by Gloria Steinem, Betty Friedan, Bella Abzug, Fannie Lou Hamer, etc., to support women in politics.

1972
Title IX passes, advancing women's equality, and championed by Representatives Patsy Mink, Bernice Sandler and Edith Green.

First woman to run for President as a Democrat:
Shirley Chisholm

1975
Amendments to the Voting Rights Act mandate that some voting materials be provided in languages other than English.

1981
First woman appointed to the Supreme Court:
Sandra Day O'Connor, by Ronald Reagan

1984
First woman to run as vice-president on the Democratic party ticket:
Geraldine Ferraro, with Walter Mondale

1989
First Latina elected to Congress:
Cuban-American Ileana Rops-Lehtinen of Florida

1992
First black woman elected to Senate:
Carol Moseley Braun of Illinois

1993
The **National Voter Registration Act** makes voter registration available through the Department of Motor Vehicles, public assistance, and disabilities agencies, to increase voter registration and participation.

Ruth Bader Ginsberg appointed to the Supreme Court, by Bill Clinton

2000
A federal court rules that citizens of U.S. territories, such as Puerto Rico and Guam, cannot vote in federal elections nor have Congressional representation.

2002
The **Help America Vote Act** addresses inconsistencies in federal voting standards and access.

2008
First woman to run as vice-president on the Republican party ticket: Sarah Palin, with John McCain

2009
Sonia Sotomayor appointed to the Supreme Court, by Barack Obama

2010
Elena Kagan appointed to the Supreme Court, by Barack Obama

2013
The Supreme Court rules that states with a history of discrimination against minority voters gain federal permission before changing voting policies.

2016
First woman Presidential nominee for a major political party: Hillary Clinton
Just over 63% of women cast ballots in the Presidential election.

First Indian-American woman elected to Congress:
Pramila Jayapal of Washington

First Indian-American woman elected to Senate:
Kamala Harris of California

First Latina elected to Senate:
Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada

2017
The **Women's March** occurs in cities across the US, and around the world. With over 7 million people, it is the world's largest single-day protest to date.

2018
First Muslim woman elected to Congress:
Somali-American Ihan Omar of Minnesota, and Palestinian-American Rashida Tlaib of Michigan

First Native American woman elected to Congress:
Ho-Chunk Nation tribe's Sharice Davids of Kansas, and Laguna Pueblo tribe's Deb Haaland of New Mexico

Presently...
There is debate over whether convicted felons who have served their time should be allowed to vote.

The Electoral College faces scrutiny, which critics argue over-represents small states and overrules the popular vote.

38 states have ratified the ERA—it has not yet been ratified to the US Constitution.

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