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

1776 Declaration of Independence: Women of color are not treated as equals.

1786 Spanish settlers in Florida pass first female law: The Free Women’s Act.

1788 The First Amendment is ratified, stating a guarantee of free speech, a free press, religion, and a jury trial.

1836 Kansas-Nebraska Act: The 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is passed, granting former slaves the right to vote.

1848 Woman’s Rights Convention at Seneca Falls: Women’s rights activist Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Lucretia Mott hold a convention to discuss women’s rights.

1866 Reconstruction Act is passed, which allows African American men to vote for the first time.

1867 Woman’s Right’s Convention: Women start to demand the right to vote.

1875 The 15th Amendment is ratified, stating that the right to vote cannot be denied on the basis of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

1890 The 14th Amendment is ratified, granting citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States, which includes African Americans.

1896 Plessy v. Ferguson: The Supreme Court upholds the constitutionality of segregation laws.

1899 The National American Woman Suffrage Association is founded, led by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

1908 The 19th Amendment is ratified, granting women the right to vote.

1920 Victory in the women’s suffrage movement.

1922 First woman is elected to Congress: Jeannette Rankin of Montana.

1924 Equal Rights Amendment (ERA): First woman is elected to the Senate: Hattie Caraway of Arkansas.

1926 Equal Rights Amendment (ERA): First black woman elected to Congress: Vida Blue of Illinois.

1932 The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA): First woman is elected to the House of Representatives: Ninetta Stanton, in South Dakota.

1949 The 26th Amendment is ratified, lowering the voting age from 21 to 18.

1950’s Civil Rights Movement: Women play an active role, fighting for equal rights and voting.

1963 March on Washington: Martin Luther King Jr. speaks about the need for equal rights.

1965 Voting Rights Act: Voting rights are protected for all citizens.

1966 Civil Rights Act: Voting rights are protected for black citizens.

1968 Civil Rights Act: Voting rights are protected for all citizens.

1970’s Women’s Movement: Women start to demand equal rights and voting.

1980’s The 19th Amendment is ratified, granting women the right to vote.

1990’s Women’s Movement: Women start to demand equal rights and voting.

2000’s The 19th Amendment is ratified, granting women the right to vote.

2010’s The 19th Amendment is ratified, granting women the right to vote.

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