

WOMEN'S RIGHTS TIMELINE

- 1777** Abigail Smith Adams, wife of the second president (John Adams) and mother of the sixth president (John Quincy Adams) writes that women "will not hold ourselves bound by any laws which we have no voice."
- 1784** Hannah Adams is first American woman to support herself by writing.
- 1819** Emma Hart Willard writes her "Plan for Improving Female Education," which although unsuccessful, defines the issue of women's education at that time.
- 1826** The first public high schools for girls open in New York and Boston.
- 1828** Former slave, abolitionist, and feminist Isabella van Wagener is freed and takes the name Sojourner Truth. She begins to preach against slavery throughout New York and New England.
- 1833** Oberlin College in Ohio, is the first co-educational college in the U.S.
- 1838** Mount Holyoke College is established in Massachusetts as first college for women.
- 1840** Elizabeth Cady Stanton, feminist, dress reformer, and editor, omits the word "obey" from her marriage vows.
- 1840** Lucretia Mott is one of several women delegates to attend the World's Anti-Slavery Convention in London. As a woman, she is forced to sit in the gallery and cannot participate.
- 1848** The first Women's Rights Convention is held in Seneca Falls, NY.
- 1849** Elizabeth Blackwell becomes the first woman to receive a medical degree in U.S.
- Women doctors are permitted to legally practice medicine for the first time.
- 1850** Women are granted the right to own land in a state (Oregon).
- The Female (later Women's) Medical College is founded in Pennsylvania.
- 1852** Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Stanton form the Women's NY Temperance Society.

1860-65 American Civil War

- 1866** The American Equal Rights Association is founded by Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Stanton, Martha Coffin Pelham Wright, and Ernestine Rose.
- 1868** The 14th Amendment denying women the right to vote is ratified.

Women lawyers are licensed in U.S.

1869 The National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA) and the American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA) are formed.

1870 The 15th Amendment enfranchising black men is ratified.

1872 Susan B. Anthony is arrested for attempting to vote.

1874 The Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) is founded.

1878 For the first time, a Women's Suffrage Amendment is introduced to Congress.

1890 Wyoming is first state to allow women to vote.

The NWSA and the AWSA reunite to form the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA).

Women begin to wear knickerbockers instead of skirts for bicycle riding.

1903 The Women's Trade Union League of New York is formed to unionize working women. This group later becomes the nucleus for the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU).

1913 5,000 suffragists march in Washington, D.C. for the women's rights movement.

1915 A petition with 500,000 signatures in support of women's suffrage amendment is given to President Woodrow Wilson.

1920 The 19th Amendment is ratified, allowing women the right to vote in federal elections.

1923 Alice Paul and the National Women's Party first proposes the Equal Rights Amendment to eliminate discrimination on the basis of sex. It has never been ratified.

1928 Amelia Earhart makes her first trans-Atlantic flight

1934 Florence Ellinwood Allen becomes first woman on US Court of Appeals.

1939-45 World War II

1961 Eleanor Roosevelt is appointed to chair the Commission on the Status of Women.

1966 The National Organization for Women (NOW) is founded by Betty Goldstein Friedan.

1970 50,000 people march in New York City for the first Women's Strike for Equality.

- 1971** U.S. Supreme Court rule ends sex discrimination in hiring.
- 1972** U.S. Congress passes the Equal Employment Opportunity Act.
- Equal Rights Amendment passes Congress but fails to be ratified.
- 1975** Ella Grasso is first woman Governor (CT) to be re-elected.
- 1977** 3,000 women march in Washington, D.C. on Women's Equality Day to support the E.R.A.
- 1981** Sandra Day O'Connor becomes first woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court.
- 1995** Lt. Col. Eileen Collins becomes the first American woman to pilot a Space Shuttle.
- 1997** Madeleine K. Albright becomes first woman U.S. Secretary of State.
- 2000** Hillary Rodham Clinton becomes the only First Lady ever elected to the United States Senate.
- 2005** Condoleezza Rice becomes the first African-American woman to be appointed Secretary of State.