

WOMEN'S HISTORY

MONTH 2020

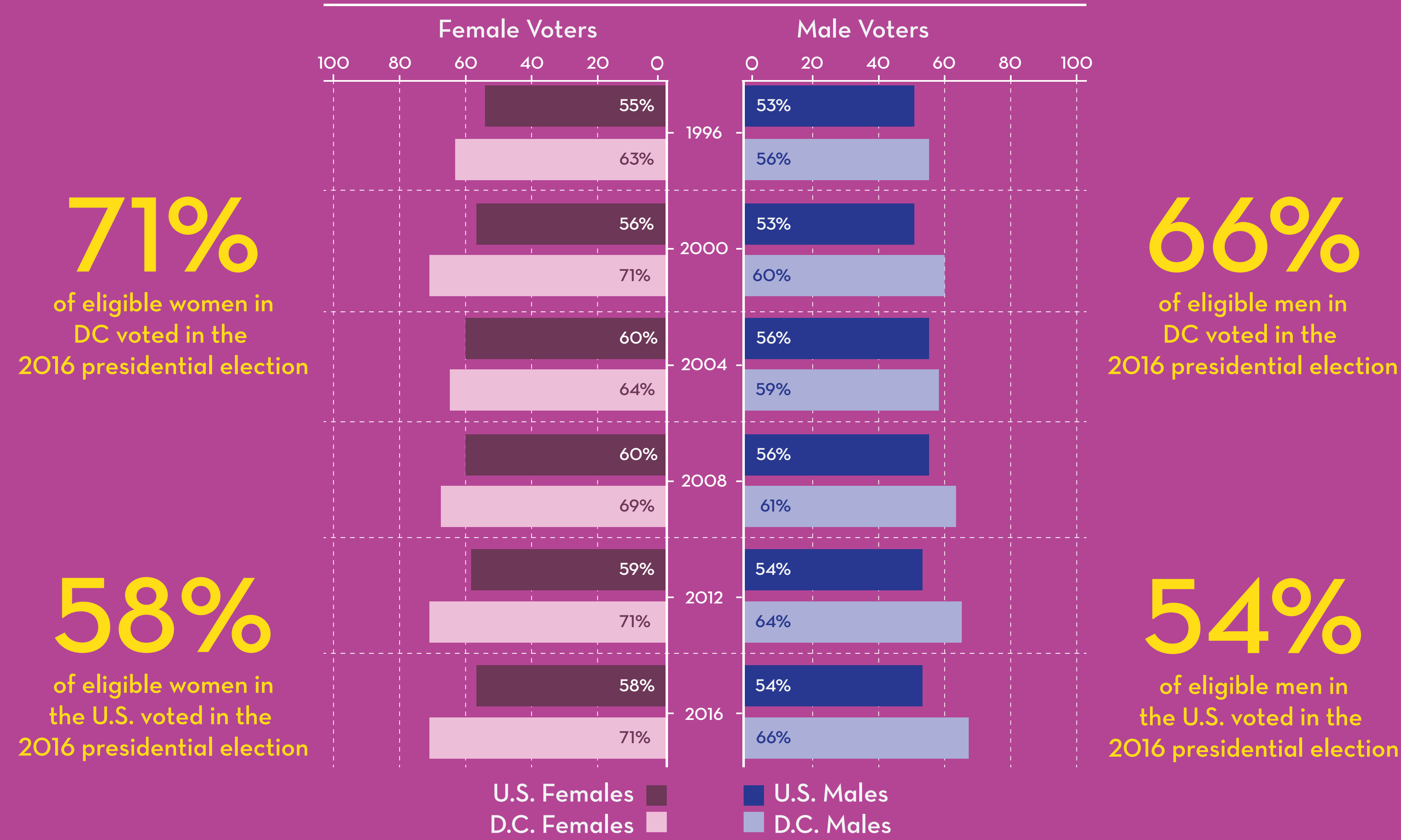
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

The roots of National Women's History Month go back to March 8, 1857, when women from various New York City factories staged a protest over working conditions. The first Women's Day Celebration in the United States was held in New York City in 1909. Congress did not officially establish National Women's History Week until 1981 to be commemorated annually the second week of March. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month. Every year since, Congress has passed a resolution and the president has issued a proclamation in celebration.

The year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing and protecting women's constitutional right to vote. "Passed by Congress June 4, 1919, and ratified on August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment guarantees all American women the right to vote. Achieving this milestone required a lengthy and difficult struggle; victory took decades of agitation and protest. Beginning in the mid-19th century, several generations of woman suffrage supporters lectured, wrote, marched, lobbied, and practiced civil disobedience to achieve what many Americans considered a radical change of the Constitution.

This historic centennial offers an unparalleled opportunity to commemorate a milestone of democracy and equal rights. For this year's Women's History Month celebration, the Office of Planning offers a summary of the history of the Women's Suffrage movement, and a glimpse at voting rate trends by sex in presidential elections in both the U.S. and in the District of Columbia.

Composition of U.S. & D.C. Voters by Sex: Presidential Elections, 1996-2016



71%
of eligible women in DC voted in the 2016 presidential election

58%
of eligible women in the U.S. voted in the 2016 presidential election

66%
of eligible men in DC voted in the 2016 presidential election

54%
of eligible men in the U.S. voted in the 2016 presidential election

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

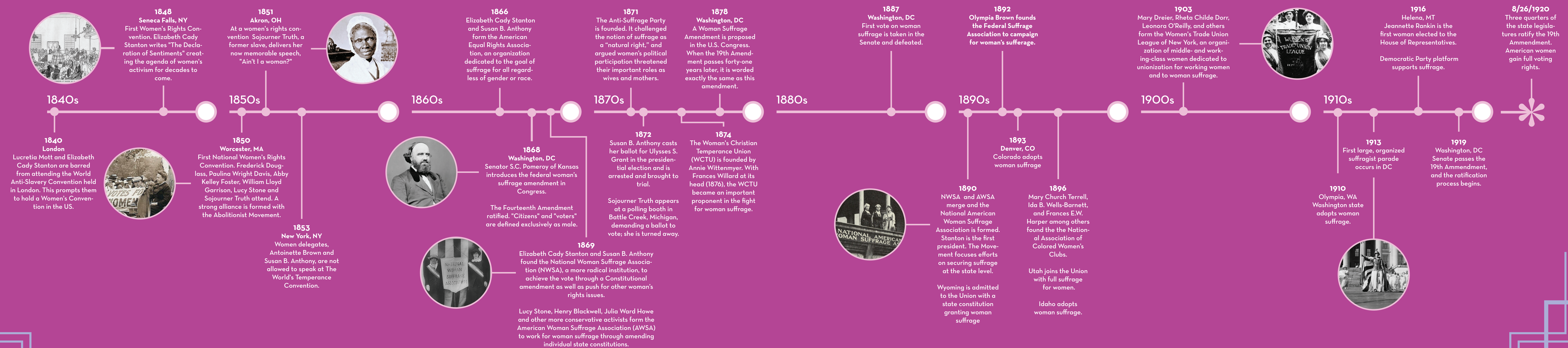


Passage of Voting Rights for Women by Country & Decade, 1890-2020

- 1890s: New Zealand
- 1900s: Australia*, Finland
- 1910s: Norway, Denmark, Canada**
Austria, Germany, Poland, Russia
Netherlands
- 1920s: United States***, Sweden, Britain, Ireland
- 1930s: Spain, Turkey
- 1940s: France, Italy, Argentina, Japan, Mexico
Pakistan, China
- 1950s: India, Colombia, Malaysia, Zimbabwe
- 1960s: Algeria, Iran, Morocco, Libya, Ecuador
- 1970s: Switzerland, Bangladesh, Jordan, Portugal
- 1980s: Namibia
- 1990s: Western Samoa, Kazakhstan, Moldova,
South Africa
- 2000s: Kuwait, United Arab Emirates
- 2010s: Saudi Arabia

Source: Kim Hjeltnes, USA Today (Feb 2018)
*Aborigines, male and female, gained the right to vote in 1962
**Canadian First Nation, male and female, did not win the right to vote until 1960
***All women in the United States and its territories did not win the right to vote in 1920. Other groups got the right to vote as follows: Native American women: 1924; Puerto Rican women: 1935; Chinese American women: 1943; Japanese and other Asian-American women: 1952; Black women in the South: 1965

U.S. WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE TIMELINE: 1840 TO 1920



DC Office of Planning • State Data Center •
1100 4th Street SW, Suite 650 • Washington, DC 20024 • District of Columbia
202.442.7600 • planning.dc.gov • dcdataviz.dc.gov

