

WOMEN'S HISTORY

MONTH 2020

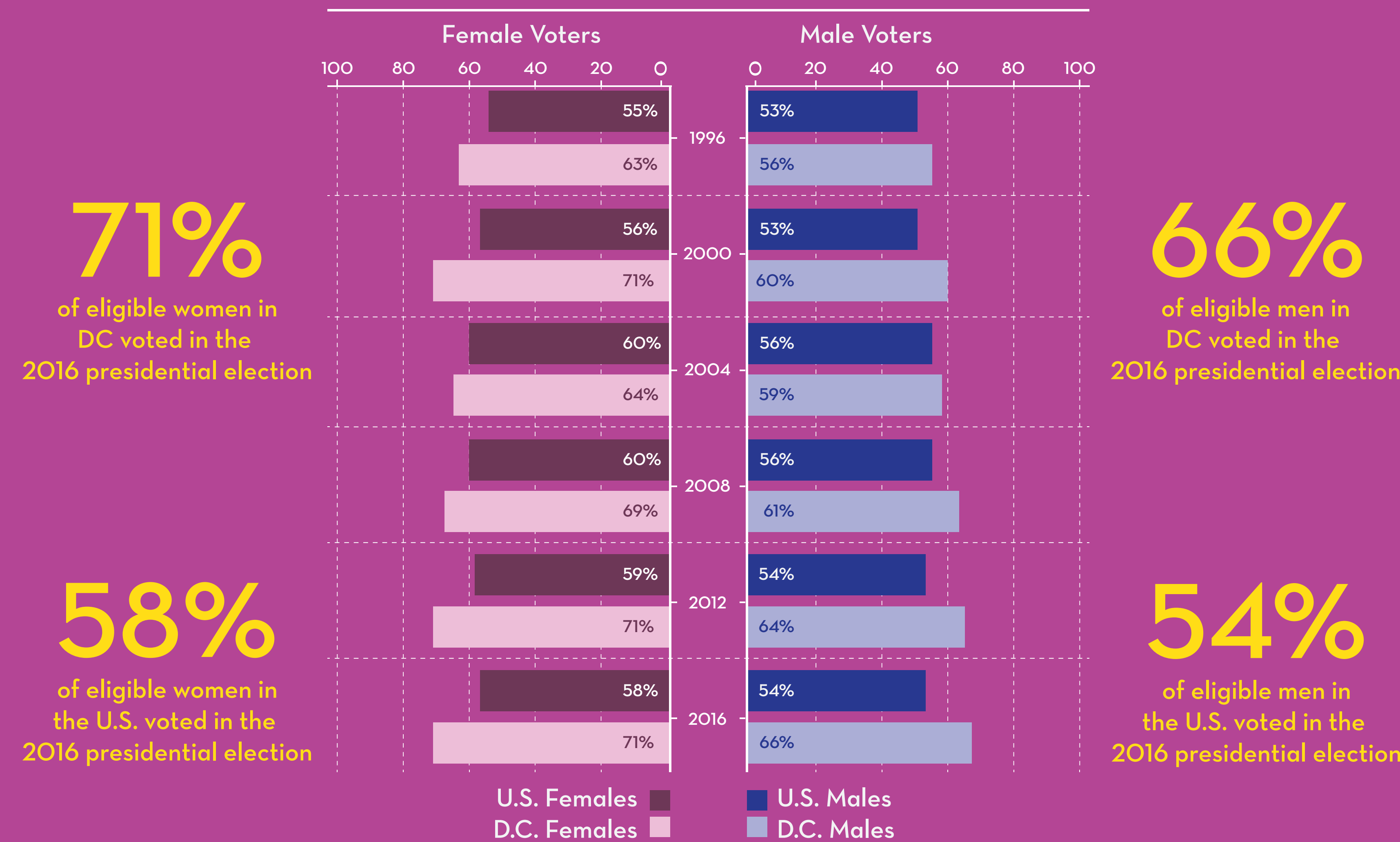
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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

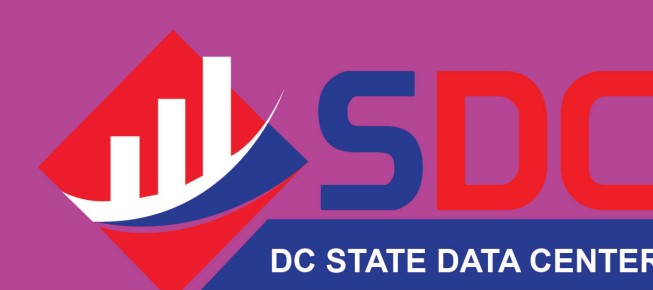
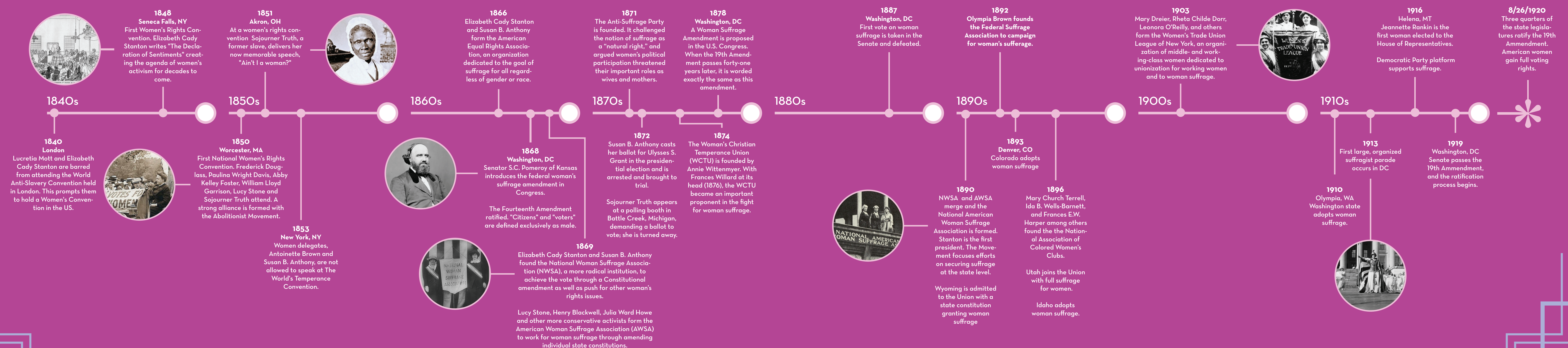


Passage of Voting Rights for Women by
Country & Decade, 1890-2020

- 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 Hjelmgaard, 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

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



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