

# WOMEN'S HISTORY

MONTH 2020

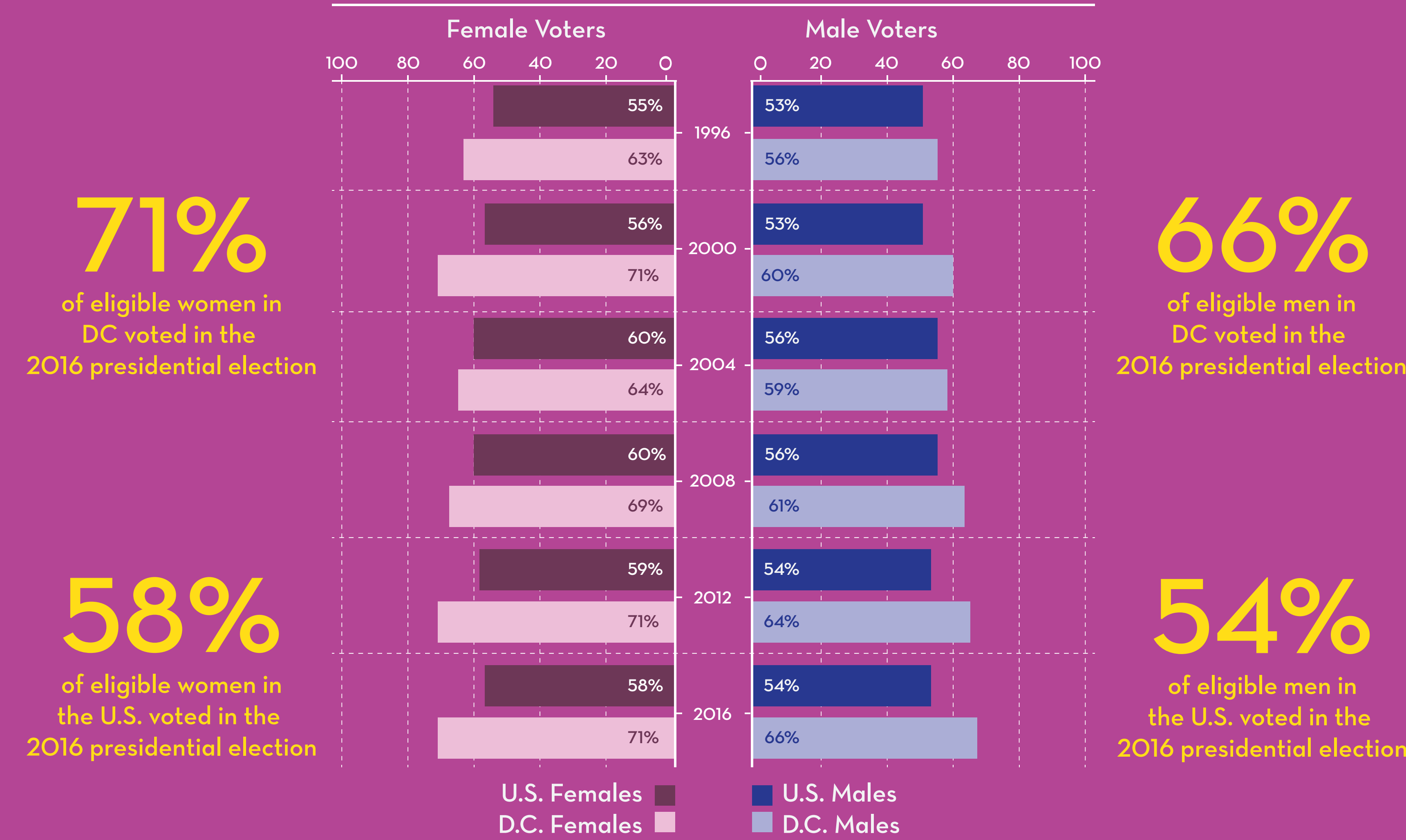
## WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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



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

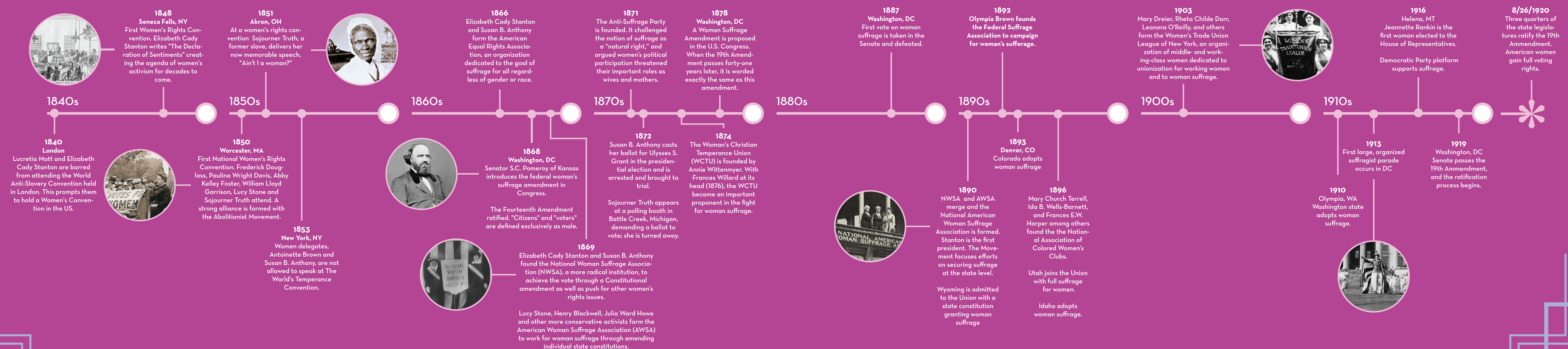


Passage of Voting Rights for Women by Country & Decade, 1890-2020

- 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 Hjelmgard, 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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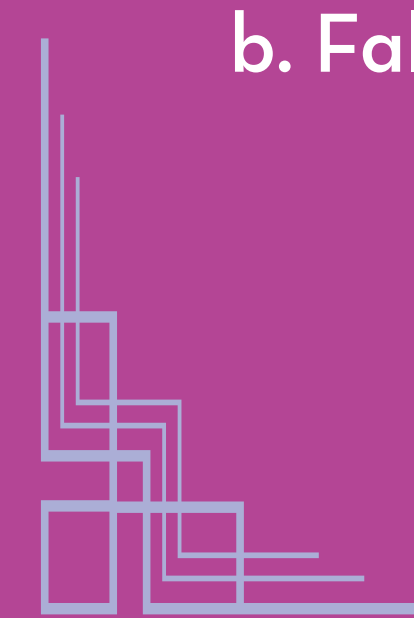
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"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."  
- Harriet Tubman

## Take the Suffrage Quiz!

1. What does suffrage mean?
  - a. To endure pain
  - b. The right to vote
  - c. To inflict pain unto someone else
  - d. None of the above
2. Why did many women in the U.S. House wear yellow roses on May 21, 2019?
  - a. To honor the composer of "The Yellow Rose of Texas."
  - b. To commemorate the House passing of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1919.
  - c. To honor a deceased member who favored yellow roses.
  - d. To commemorate the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965.
3. Who were the two leaders of the national suffrage organization in the final years?
  - a. Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton
  - b. Harriet Stanton Blatch and Alice Stone Blackwell
  - c. Anna Howard Shaw and Matilda Joslyn Gage
  - d. Alice Paul and Carrie Chapman Catt
4. What were the colors of the suffrage movement?
  - a. White and purple
  - b. Purple and gold
  - c. Gold, white and purple
  - d. Gold and white
5. Which suffrage advocates' home may you now visit?
  - a. Alice Paul
  - b. Harriet Tubman
  - c. Elizabeth Cady Stanton
  - d. Matilda Joslyn Gage
  - e. All of the above
6. When did the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment become law?
  - a. August 26th, 1919
  - b. August 18th, 1920
  - c. August 26th, 2020
  - d. August 19th, 1919
7. The 1848 Seneca Falls Convention was an early women's rights convention. One woman in attendance crafted a document, outlining grievances and demands. What was this document called?
  - a. Declaration of Independence
  - b. Declaration of Sentiments
  - c. Emancipation Proclamation
  - d. Articles of Confederation
8. What percentage of states need to ratify an amendment to the U.S. Constitution before it becomes law?
  - a. 1/4
  - b. 2/4
  - c. 3/4
  - d. 4/4
9. The women's rights movement finds its roots in abolitionism. Which famous abolitionist spoke at the Seneca Falls Convention?
  - a. Sojourner Truth
  - b. Frederick Douglas
  - c. John Brown
  - d. Harriet Beecher Stowe
10. Women were able to cast votes before 1920.
  - a. True
  - b. False
11. Under which President did the 19th Amendment become law?
  - a. Woodrow Wilson
  - b. William H. Taft
  - c. Calvin Coolidge
  - d. Warren Harding
12. The 19th Amendment gave all women the right to vote.
  - a. True
  - b. False



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