

VOTES FOR WOMEN

Votes for Women Ribbon, Library of Congress

Plan Ahead for the Women's Vote Centennial

In 1920, women gained the right to vote with the passage of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution. One hundred years later, communities across the nation will celebrate the Centennial. This guide is designed to help heritage organizations in Oregon plan ahead to incorporate stories and programming related to the women's vote and women's history into their 2020 activities.

Historic Background:

The year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, which placed women's voting rights in the United States Constitution. Oregon was one of several western states that saw early victories in this area. In November 1912, Oregon men approved woman suffrage after voting "no" five times between 1884 and 1910. While most Oregon women achieved the right to vote in 1912, race and ethnicity remained barriers for others to vote. After 1912, women in Oregon continued suffrage work by assisting other state campaigns and pushing for a federal suffrage amendment. On June 4, 1919, the US Congress passed the 19th Amendment. Oregon became the 25th state to ratify on January 12, 1920. By August 1920, 36 states had ratified the US Constitution removing sex as a barrier to voting rights. (Read more at Oregon Encyclopedia).



Image from Library of Congress

START PLANNING NOW!

Now is the time to start planning for 2020 Centennial events in your community! Join organizations across Oregon and the United States in sharing and commemorating stories of women who have changed history.

You may have a good idea of who those women are in your community. But you might also be surprised by the stories you find when you start digging a little deeper. Because women were historically denied full participation in mainstream cultural, social, political, and economic activities, many of their stories have been marginalized or gone unrecorded. The 2020 Centennial presents an opportunity to expand the narrative of women's suffrage and women's history by sharing the stories of women who have made strides in your community. Finding and telling these stories inserts more voices into your community's history, engages more community members, and recognizes an important piece of American history.

Where to start looking for local stories:

- Research who is buried in local cemeteries
- Research women who lived in local neighborhoods
- Don't limit yourself to the early 1900s-- expand your search to more recent decades
- Research women who held early positions in politics: mayor, city council members, etc...
- Research the first women in a variety of professions in your community
- Consider looking into organizations that have historically served women:
 - Women's Clubs
 - Libraries
 - Auxiliary Clubs
 - Activist Groups
 - Sororities

1920
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2020



Woman Suffrage Wagon, National Museum of American History

Places to conduct research:

- Local library and/or historical society
- University archives
- Historic Oregon Newspapers
<https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/>
- Local League of Women's Voters chapters
<http://lwv.or.org/>
- Oregon Historic Sites Database
<http://heritagedata.prd.state.or.us/historic/>
- Oregon Historical Society
<https://ohs.org/research-and-library/>
- Oregon Encyclopedia
<https://oregonencyclopedia.org/>

Types of programming to consider:

- Create a mini-exhibit in your library, city hall, shopping center, or local school
- Hold a history talk at your local library
- Expand a history talk to include a civics discussion about a present day issue
- Host a tour of sites associated with local women
- Recreate an historical event
- Present an award to a local civic organization
- Host an Equalitea- Tea has traditionally been a way for women to socialize and organize. An "equalitea" is a way to educate your community about the suffrage movement and/or honor local women leaders.
- Share social media messages. Consider sharing #2020Centennial, #SuffrageAt100, #RightToVote, #WomenDisobey, #GetRadical, #Vote100, #WomenInPolitics, #HerStory, #WomenVote
- Remember that March is Women's History Month!

Funding Opportunities:

- County Cultural Coalitions- For projects that create, share, document, and develop the county's cultural identity. Learn what's available in your county.
- Oregon Cultural Trust- Funds support access, preservation, creativity, and capacity projects.
- Oregon Museum Grant (due spring 2020)- Funds support Oregon museums in projects related to collections, heritage tourism, and heritage education

and interpretation.

- Oregon Heritage Grant (due fall 2019) - Funds support projects that conserve, develop or interpret Oregon's heritage.
- Travel Oregon Mini Grant- Planning an event? Look into tourism grants.
- Oregon Humanities Responsive Grant- Funds bring people together to explore a timely issue.

Additional Resources:

- Oregon History Resources:
 - Oregon 2020
<http://www.oregonwomenshistory.org/oregon-2020/>
 - Oregon Women's History Interviews
<http://www.oregonwomenshistory.org/interviews/>
 - Oregon Public Broadcasting: The Suffragists
<https://www.opb.org/television/programs/oregonexperience/segment/the-suffragists/>
 - Oregon Encyclopedia
https://oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/woman_suffrage_in_oregon/#.XNMJgGN7lph
- Links to National Resources:
 - 2020 Women's Vote Centennial Toolkit
<https://www.2020centennial.org/>
 - AASLH 19th Amendment Centennial Value Statement
<http://download.aaslh.org/AASLH+19th+Amendment+Centennial+Value+Statement.pdf>
 - Centennial of Women's Suffrage
<http://www.suffragettes2020.com/>
- Research Tips
 - Heritage Bulletin 34: Researching Historically Marginalized Communities
https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/HCD/docs/Heritage_Bulletins/HB34_Researching_Historically_Marginalized_Communities.pdf



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