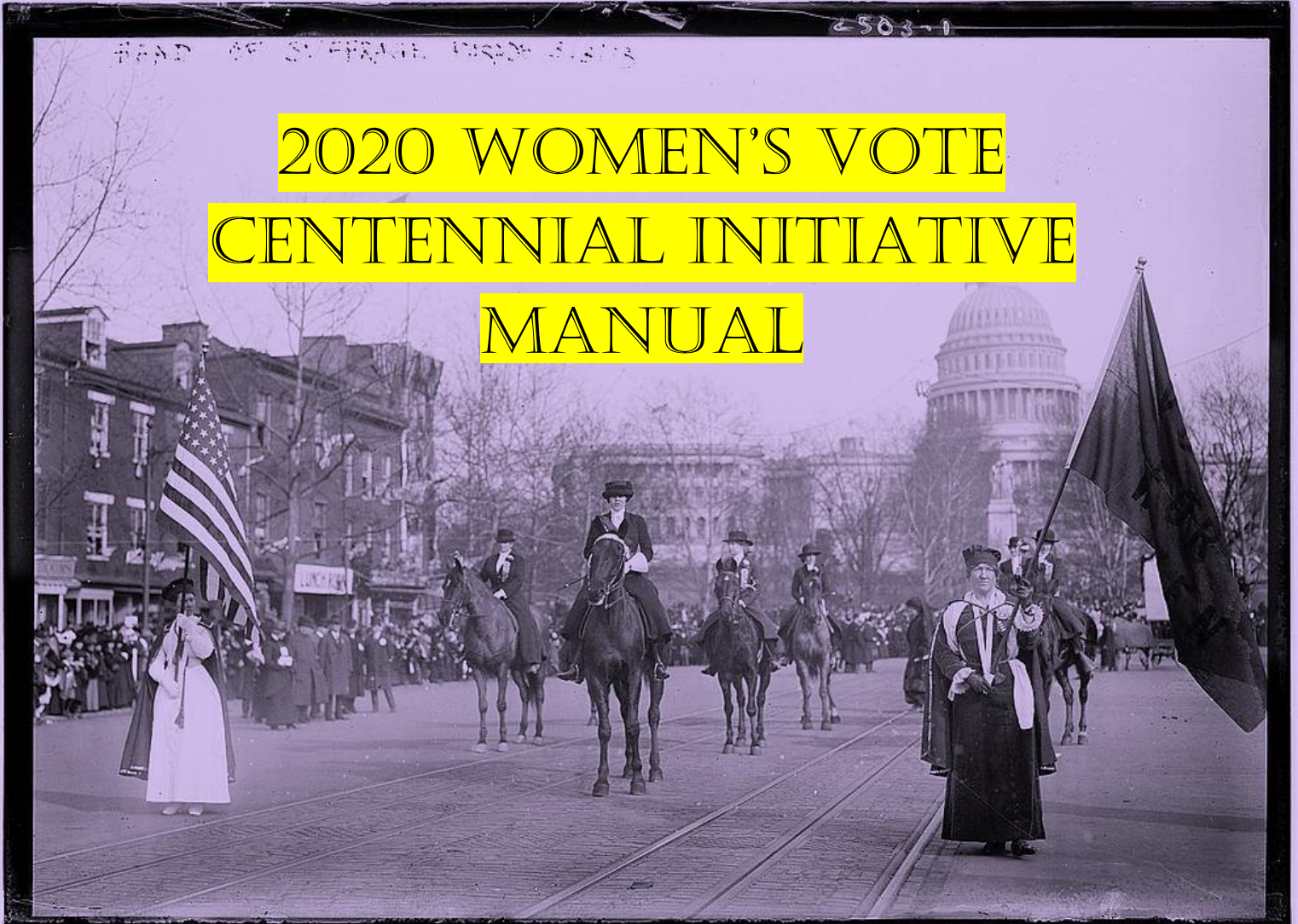


HEAD OF SUFFRAGE UNION 5.3.13

2503-1

2020 WOMEN'S VOTE CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE MANUAL



Prepared by

WVCI

OVERVIEW



On August 26, 1920, women gained the right to vote with the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Many people around America are looking for appropriate ways to commemorate the centennial of women winning the vote. Planning for celebrations is underway and some efforts have already launched.

The Women's Vote Centennial Initiative is a collaboration of women-centered organizations working to encourage and amplify the centennial celebrations across the nation. In this guide, we outline ways you can organize, educate, and celebrate. Please feel free to reach out to us for more information.

ORGANIZING

WORK WITH ESTABLISHED GROUPS

There may be organizations which are already planning activities in your state or community. The WVC I is working to help identify those groups, and the more we publicize our efforts, the easier it will be to find each other. We recommend you connect with existing groups first, before starting a new initiative. The League of Women Voters, the AAUW and other organizations in many states are planning 2020 activities. To find other existing groups, check the WVC I website, 2020centennial.org, or the [*How Women Won the Vote Gazette*](#).

PUT TOGETHER A COALITION OR START A COMMISSION

In 2017, Congress passed legislation creating the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission and provided a \$4 million appropriation for the group. For more [information](#).

Activists have created several state commissions, committees, or provided 2020 funding to existing groups. See the state listing on 2020centennial.org to find the group in your [state](#). If your state has not organized, consider helping to create a centennial commission in your state or a coalition of interested groups.



BUILD A MONUMENT

A monument (or statue, plaque, stained-glass window, artwork, etc.) can be a lasting commemoration honoring the accomplishments of women.

[The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial](#) will commemorate the millions of women from every state, race and ethnicity who fought for 72 years to win the constitutional right to vote. Located in Occoquan, Virginia, where many suffragists were jailed and force-fed, it will commemorate the fight for women's suffrage. Dedication is scheduled for 2020.

The [Virginia Women's Monument Commission](#) was established in 2010 and is scheduled to dedicate a monument honoring the contributions of 12 outstanding women who made significant contributions to Virginia on October 14, 2019.

Other monuments include the Ida B. Wells [monument](#) in Chicago, [statues in Knoxville and Nashville, Tennessee](#), a Susan B. Anthony [stained glass window](#) in Rochester, New York, the Suffragist Monument in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, and a planned Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony [statue](#) in Central Park, New York City.

The National Women's Suffrage Marker Program offers grants to erect roadside markers commemorating women's suffrage people, places, and things. For more information, click [here](#).



NATIONAL VOTES FOR WOMEN TRAIL

In honor of the 2020 centennial, the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites is leading the effort to develop a nationwide Votes for Women Trail. The Trail will highlight the role of each state in the 72-year battle to achieve women's suffrage. This project is truly a grassroots effort. A coordinator in each state will lead efforts to find and to research sites that have a history with the women's suffrage movement. The volunteers enter that information into a comprehensive database that will be used to populate an interactive nationwide map, which will represent a more complete story of the struggle for women's suffrage. The Trail now has more than 1000 sites and 44 state coordinators.

Interested in volunteering? For more information, click [here](#).

EDUCATING

HIRE A SPEAKER FOR A SCHOOL

The best way to engage students in the celebration of women's victory is to include it in their school curriculum. Work with your local school system to include professors or local experts to share their expertise on women's history as it relates to the lessons in different grade levels.

Schools welcome volunteers. Your group might offer to read suffrage-related books to elementary school classes and later donate the books to the school library.



HOLD AN EVENT OR START A SERIES

Public libraries and historical societies are always interested in new programming ideas. Contact the staff at some local institutions and encourage them to schedule suffrage-related programs to celebrate 2020.

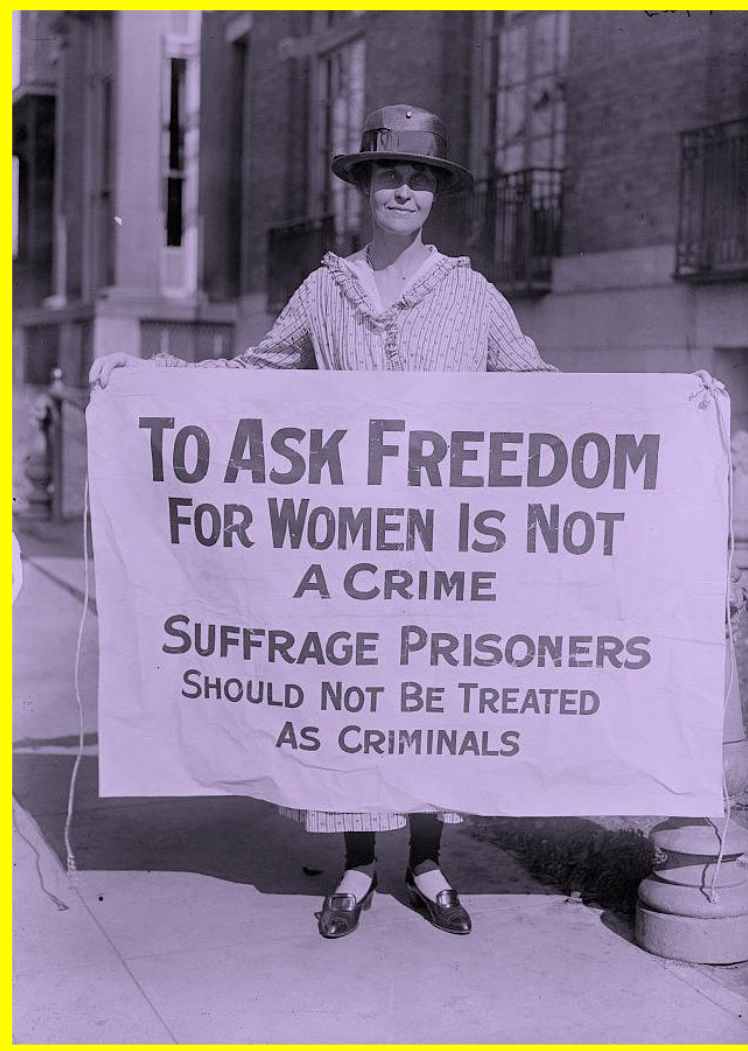
Questions to address: Who were the suffrage supporters in your state? How did they help win passage of the 19th Amendment? What did they do? Where did they work? What still needs to be done today?

For a list of performers and speakers on women's history topics, see the National Women's History Alliance website (look at the top and click on ["Performers/Speakers"](#))

FIND INFORMATION ABOUT WOMEN'S HISTORY IN YOUR COMMUNITY OR STATE

Libraries, state and community history museums, university special collections and archives are great sources for local women's history. In addition, contact any area historic sites or landmarks for specialized information. Established women's groups may also have information on local history. Check the WVCI list of [books](#) about state woman suffrage efforts on the 2020centennial.org website.

SHARE SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES



Social media is an excellent way to educate others about the centennial. Follow the WVCJ on social media, share, and then create your own content relevant to your state using the official hashtag #2020Centennial. Consider using one of the following in addition to #2020Centennial to share experiences when posting: #TowardEquality, #SuffrageAt100, #RightToVote, #WomenDisobey, #GetRadical, #Vote100, #WomenInPolitics, #HerStory, #FeministFriday, #WomenVote

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/2020Centennial/

Twitter: @2020Centennial

Instagram: 2020Centennial

WORK WITH A YOUTH GROUP

Ensuring young people understand the importance of early suffragists and women's rights advocates is an essential part of our work for the centennial and beyond. Encourage organized youth groups to include what women did. Consider approaching your local Boys and Girls Club and Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts to interest them in the suffrage movement. Girl Scout Troops in some states offer a [suffrage patch](#) for members to earn.

The National Park Service has a Junior Suffragist booklet which can be found [here](#).

COMMEMORATING AND CELEBRATING



PUSH FOR LEGISLATION/PROCLAMATIONS

What better way to pay homage to the work needed to pass the 19th Amendment than to support additional legislation promoting women's rights? Encourage lawmakers to commemorate the centennial with a proclamation as well as a state commission. Consider identifying legislators who may be interested in introducing a bill. The New York State [commission bill](#) provides an example for the establishment of a commission.

The Library of Congress website has examples of resolutions/proclamations. Click here for more information: loc.gov.

HOLD AN ISSUE-RELATED SOCIAL JUSTICE EVENT

Women's rights activism often occurs in conjunction with advocacy for other issues. Consider holding a forum to educate your community on economic or social justice issues and incorporate suffrage and other women's rights issues.

HOLD A PARADE/EVENT IN YOUR CITY TO CELEBRATE RATIFICATION

On June 1919, Congress passed the 19th Amendment and sent it to the states for ratification. Several communities are launching their centennial activities with a parade or event to commemorate the passage of the amendment in their state. For example, Minnesotans will be celebrating ratification in their state with a gala [event](#) on the State Capitol grounds on September 8, 2019.

Check the date your state ratified [here](#).

ENCOURAGE EXHIBITS AT MUSEUMS/OTHER VENUES

Several museums and institutions in Washington DC and elsewhere are already planning or showing women's suffrage exhibits. Encourage others. Consider supplementing current exhibits or prompting museums to add additional pieces highlighting women's history. Inspire friends and family to provide suffrage artifacts (pins, sashes, etc.) for display. See a list of current and future exhibits [here](#).

PRODUCE ART

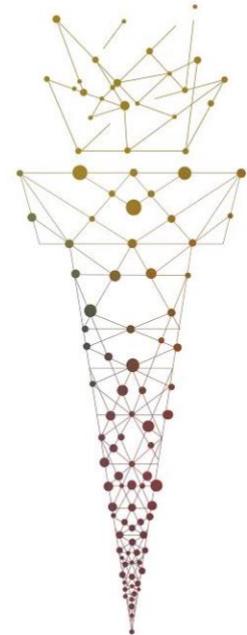
Art is an excellent and creative way to educate our communities about suffrage. Consider creating something new or commissioning artists to draw, paint, write, sculpt, act, direct or honor a person, event or theme associated with women's rights.

A few examples are:

[Her Flag](#)

[The Black Suffragist](#)

[It's My Party](#)



RECREATE A HISTORICAL EVENT

Cities across the nation hold reenactments to commemorate their history. Work with your locality to include a reenactment of a significant women’s history or local suffrage event, or enhance the role of women in an already planned event such as a Fourth of July parade. If you wish to hire a performer, the [National Women’s History Alliance](#) website includes a directory of performers, listed nationally and by state. Many do presentations related to suffrage.

EQUALITEA

Tea has traditionally been a way for women to socialize and organize. Consider hosting an “equalitea” to educate your community about the suffrage movement or honor local women leaders. Cookbooks were another way suffragists spread the word. Consider a “Suffrage Feast.”

