

Alabama

1893—Ellen Stephens Hildreth and six other women from New Decatur founded Alabama's first women's suffrage group, the Alabama Woman Suffrage Organization.

1895—Adella Hunt Logan, a Black suffragist and National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) member, organized suffrage debates for the Tuskegee Woman's Club.

1901—The Alabama Legislature amended the state's constitution to restrict voting to male citizens and expanded literacy and poll taxes to further restrict voting to white men.

1912—Pattie Ruffner Jacobs founded and served as the first president of the Alabama Equal Suffrage Association (AESA). Advocating for suffrage, equal pay, and better working conditions, AESA encouraged individuals from all social, political, and gender backgrounds to join the organization. AESA only advocated for white women's right to vote.

1915—AESA scored a major victory: Representative Joseph Green introduced the first suffrage bill in the House of Representatives. Leading up to the vote, AESA hosted luncheons and lectures, with its members writing supporting newspaper pieces. The AESA also hosted Suffrage Day at Birmingham's Rickwood Baseball Field the same year.

After Representative Green withdrew his bill support in response to anti-suffragists claiming that suffrage would double the Black vote, the Alabama House of Representatives defeated the suffrage bill just a week later. After this, AESA began to advocate for a federal suffrage amendment alongside NAWSA.

1919—After the passage of the 19th Amendment, forces such as the Woman's Anti-Ratification League of Alabama argued that any support of the 19th Amendment was treasonous.

The Alabama Legislature voted against ratification of the 19th Amendment.

1920—Nineteenth Amendment supporters held a Birmingham parade celebrating the amendment's ratification by Tennessee. Thirty-six decoration-festooned cars representing the ratifying states drove the parade route surrounded by over 1,500 suffrage supporters.

September 1953— The Alabama Legislature ratified the 19th Amendment.*

* Jim Crow laws were enforced in Alabama until passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and Black women were not able to vote post-1920.

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