

Arkansas

1868—At the 1868 Arkansas Constitutional Convention, Delegate Miles Ledford Langley proposed that all Arkansas citizens aged 21 or older who could read and write in English be given the right to vote. Delegates rejected the suffrage proposal, and Langley wrote to Susan B. Anthony apologizing for the defeat.

1881—Lizzie Fyler, one of Arkansas' first female lawyers, founded the Arkansas Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA). Fyler attended the 1884 National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) in Washington, D.C.—the first in which Arkansas was represented.*

1888—Clara McDiarmid, wife of former Pulaski County clerk George McDiarmid, founded the Little Rock Suffrage Association. McDiarmid, an attorney, served as a Women's Christian Temperance Union officer. During this time, Susan B. Anthony visited Little Rock to promote suffrage, and Arkansas delegates attended the 1890 and 1891 NAWSA conventions.

1888—Catherine Campbell Cunningham, Mary Burt Brooks, and Haryot Cohoon published the *Woman's Chronicle* which became the state Temperance movement's paper. The *Arkansas Ladies Journal*, another pro-suffrage paper started by Mary W. Loughborough soon entered the mix.

1911—New suffrage groups such as the Woman's Political Equality League (WPEL) emerged.

1917—Representative John Riggs introduced suffrage legislation allowing women to vote in primary elections. The Arkansas House voted 71-19 in favor of the legislation, and the Arkansas Senate approved the bill by a vote of 17-15.

1918—Over 40,000 women voted in the midterm election and over 50 female delegates were elected to the Democratic State Convention.

1919—After Congressional passage of the 19th Amendment, Governor Charles Brough called a special session of the General Assembly. Arkansas became the 12th state to ratify the 19th Amendment by a 74-15 vote on July 28, 1919.**

* Fyler died suddenly at age 35.

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

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