

Connecticut

1867—Frances Ellen Burr gathered suffrage petition signatures to present to the Connecticut General Assembly, which rejected a suffrage bill (111-93).

1869—Burr and Isabella Beecher Hooker founded the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association (CWSA). Beecher's famous family included her half-sister, Harriett Beecher Stowe, who wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Through education and local organizing, CWSA argued that voting was a fundamental right for all women. Connecticut granted women limited voting rights in school official elections in 1893 and on library issues in 1909.

1910—Grace Markham founded the Connecticut Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage (CAOWA). Through pamphlets, meetings, and lobbying, CAOWA argued that women were unfit to vote, and that women suffered no injustices.

1914—CWSA organized Connecticut's first suffrage parade with roughly 2,000 marchers. CWSA membership grew to 32,000 by 1917 and included many students. CWSA's success occurred, in part, from its alliance with the Equal Franchise League, a younger suffrage group that showcased the need for women voters to clean up politics, public health, labor laws, and education.

1920—After Congress enacted the 19th Amendment, suffragists demanded that Governor Marcus Holcomb convene a special legislative session to consider suffrage. He refused, declaring that no emergency existed. In response, the National American Woman Suffrage Association established an Emergency Corps, where 48 women of the country's most prominent suffragists, one from each state, held four days of widely-attended meetings in the state, culminating in a rally at the state capitol. Governor Holcomb said he would consider the special session request, but several days later Holcomb indicated he would not call legislators back for the special session.

September 14, 1920—Connecticut's Legislature met for a special session, becoming the 37th state to ratify the 19th Amendment.

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