

## Delaware

1869—Wilmington held its first women's rights convention. The same year, Emma Worrell and John Cameron founded the Delaware Suffrage Association.

1878— Newark resident Mary Ann Sorden Stuart testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee in favor of the first federal suffrage bill introduced in Congress.

1914—On Wilmington's Suffrage Day, suffragists used speeches and rallies across town to create awareness. A suffrage parade served as a centerpiece of Suffrage Day and featured 400 marching suffragists, dressed in white. The Wilmington Equal Suffrage Study Club, founded earlier that year, contributed a sizable delegation to the parade. Black women were relegated to the back of the parade line.

An anti-suffrage group, the Delaware Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage (DAOWS), counted women like duPont heiress May duPont Saulsbury (wife of Senator Willard Saulsbury) as active members. The well-connected and wealthy women of DAOWS argued that women did not need voting rights, as women already had access to politicians, through whom they could press their agendas.

1915—Legislators introduced the first suffrage bill in Delaware.

1917—Suffragist activism mirrored the national groups, where some suffragists split off from the mainstream organizations to join the Congressional Union picketing outside the White House.

1918—During midterm elections, suffragists led a successful campaign against anti-suffragist U.S. Senator Saulsbury, and a pro-suffrage senator took his place. This election victory was vital to Senate passage of the 19th Amendment the next year. Delaware's voters showed sitting senators that opposing suffrage could lead to their political defeat.

1920—After Congressional passage of the 19th Amendment, in a special legislative session, the Delaware Senate approved ratification, but the House voted against suffrage. Delaware missed the chance to become the final state needed for ratification.

March 6, 1923—The General Assembly ratified the 19th Amendment.

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