

Florida

1883—Native Iowan and teacher Ella Chamberlain founded the Florida Equal Suffrage Association (FESA), and wrote a weekly *Tampa Tribune* column on women's rights.

1913—Jacksonville's newly-formed Florida Equal Franchise League (JFEFL) petitioned Florida's Legislature to consider a suffrage bill. Suffragists spoke at a legislative committee session prior to the vote, but the bill failed. The Florida Legislature rejected suffrage bills and state constitution amendments several times.

1914—May Mann Jennings, whose husband served as Florida governor from 1901-1905, served as president of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs from 1914-1917. As the Federation's president, Jennings spoke of women voting as a vital component of education and social reform to counter arguments that women voting would be too radical for the state to consider.

1917-1918—The women of Fellsmere, Orlando, Florence Villa, Moore Haven, Palm Beach, and Pass-a-Grille, Deland, Aurantia, Daytona Beach, and Orange City won the right to vote in local elections.*

1920—After the required two-thirds of states ratified the 19th Amendment and it became federal law, Florida still declined to ratify the amendment—even though women in the state had the right to vote under federal law.

May 13, 1969—The Florida Legislature voted to ratify the 19th Amendment.

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

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