

Minnesota

1870—Minnesota suffragists submitted a petition with 750 signatures to the legislature to give voting rights to all citizens age 21 and older. Although the bill passed both the House and the Senate, the governor vetoed the bill.

1875—The Minnesota Legislature amended the state constitution to allow women to vote in school elections and serve on school boards.

1881—Sarah Burger Stearns and Harriet Bishop founded the Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association (MWSA). As a 14-year-old, Stearns attended her first women's rights convention after noting the inequalities in her school. MWSA elected Stearns as its first president and during her tenure, doubled its membership.

1885—Minneapolis hosted the American Woman Suffrage Association national conference, and the opening event was held at the Church of the Redeemer.

1893—The legislature rejected a constitutional amendment permitting municipal suffrage.

1898—The legislature enacted legislation allowing women to vote in library board elections.

1913— Clara Ueland founded the Equal Suffrage Organization of Minneapolis (ESOM). The next year, ESOM and the MWSA organized a 2,000-woman suffrage parade in Minneapolis, and after the parade's success, Ueland became MWSA president. At approximately the same time, Nellie Griswold Francis founded the Everywoman Suffrage Club (ESC) and with other ESC members, attended the 1916 MWSA conference, believing that Black and white women needed to work together to advance the suffrage cause in Minnesota.

1915—The Minnesota Legislature considered suffrage again, but the amendment was defeated by a single vote in the Minnesota Senate.

1919 —State legislators granted Minnesota's women the right to vote for presidential electors. The U.S. Constitution gave states this power, and suffrage leaders understood that this type of voting would withstand legal challenge. It also was a precautionary safeguard in case the required thirty-sixth state did not ratify the 19th Amendment.

September 8, 1919—The Minnesota Legislature met in a special session and ratified the 19th Amendment, making it the fifteenth state to ratify.

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