

New Jersey

1776—New Jersey's original state constitution allowed anyone with an estate of 50 pounds to vote, and a small number of women voted throughout the late 1700s.

1807—New Jersey limited voting to free, white male citizens after a series of contentious elections and allegations of voter fraud. New Jersey women unsuccessfully petitioned the legislature to oppose disenfranchisement.

1867—Lucy Stone and other prominent suffragists founded the New Jersey Suffrage Association (NJSA) in 1867. Although suffragists did not experience significant wins in the state, they organized dozens of local groups and repeatedly petitioned the state legislature.

1897— The legislature granted women the right to vote in school board elections.

1908—The NJSA elected Clara Laddey, a German immigrant and women's rights activist, as its president. Laddey reignited the New Jersey suffrage movement by partnering with the Equal Franchise Society and the American Federation of Labor to appeal to church congregations while addressing local working issues.

1912—The New Jersey Legislature considered suffrage legislation and again the next year, but neither bill passed.

1914—A suffrage amendment passed during two required successive sessions before being sent to the electorate for a vote.

1915—For the suffrage referendum, New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association (NJWSA) President Lillian Feickert traveled across the state to educate and recruit voters, holding over 4,500 meetings. Suffragists activated a state-wide get-out-the-vote campaign, while liquor interests and political machines campaigned against the measure.

Voters roundly defeated the 1915 suffrage amendment, and the state constitution prevented the reconsideration of a failed amendment for another five years.

February 9, 1920—New Jersey ratified the 19th Amendment, making it the 29th state to ratify.

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