

Ohio

1850—500 Ohio suffragists attended the Ohio Women's Convention, the first woman's rights convention held outside of New York. A year later, Akron hosted the Ohio Women's Rights Convention, where Sojourner Truth, who had escaped enslavement, delivered her famous speech, "*Ain't I a Woman?*"

1869—The Ohio Woman's Suffrage Association (OWSA) began its decades-long fight for suffrage. OWSA's advocacy efforts launched six suffrage bills in the legislature between 1888 and 1894.

1891—Harriet Taylor Upton began hosting equal rights meetings in her home. In addition to being OWSA president (1899-1908, 1911-1920), Upton served as National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) treasurer. Elizabeth Hauser, a journalist and activist, worked closely with Upton to organize rallies and speeches, write suffrage-related literature, and testify in favor of suffrage.

1894—The legislature passed a bill allowing women to vote in school elections. Anti-suffragists challenged the law, which the state Supreme Court upheld.

1912—Ohio legislators agreed to allow Ohioans to vote on a state suffrage amendment. With three months to prepare, local suffragists and 50 NAWSA volunteers organized a parade and appealed to voters through leaflets and flyers. The liquor industry launched a campaign against the amendment, arguing that suffrage would usher in Prohibition. In September, anti-suffragists soundly defeated the state constitutional amendment.

1914—Ten thousand people gathered in support of suffrage for a two-mile-long parade.

1915—Ohio's voters defeated a suffrage measure by more than 100,000 votes.

1917—Legislators passed a bill giving women voting rights in presidential elections. Anti-suffragists mobilized quickly and overwhelmingly won a repeal of the measure.

During the following years, suffragists urged their congressional delegation to support the 19th Amendment and lobbied state legislators to quickly ratify the 19th Amendment after passage.

June 16, 1919—Ohio ratified the 19th Amendment, simultaneously passing a bill ensuring that women could vote in the 1920 presidential election if the amendment were not officially added to the Constitution by then.

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