

Rhode Island

1850—After organizing a National Women's Rights Convention in Massachusetts, Paulina Wright Davis started the country's first women's rights newspaper, *The Una*.

1868—Rowena Stewart Arnold founded the Rhode Island Woman Suffrage Association (RIWSA), which aligned itself with the American Woman Suffrage Association.

1887—When a suffrage bill was introduced in the state legislature, State Representative Thomas Henry threw the bill on the floor and stomped on it, yelling, "I will kill woman suffrage." Pro-suffrage legislators introduced bills in almost every legislative session for the next twenty years, but legislators were never able to guide the bills beyond committee consideration.

1907—Sara Algeo assumed the leadership of RIWSA and created alliances with progressive groups supporting child welfare and public health reform. Rhode Island suffragists did not become more militant in protesting or parading, and worked within established channels to persuade legislators.

1917—Senator Richard Jennings introduced legislation granting women the right to vote in presidential elections. This limited suffrage acknowledged women's contribution to the war effort and allowed them a level of electoral participation on the federal level.

Jennings' bill easily passed both the House (71-20) and the Senate (32-3). On April 18, Governor Beeckman signed the bill, making Rhode Island the first state in New England to grant presidential suffrage to women.

January 6, 1920—Rhode Island ratified the 19th Amendment.

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