

Indiana

1851—Amanda Way, a 23-year-old Quaker, organized the first Woman's Rights Convention in Dublin, Indiana, where convention attendees discussed the need for social, financial, and political rights for women.* Following the convention, Way and other attendees founded the Indiana Women's Rights Association (IWRA).

1859—IWRA president Dr. Mary Thomas became the first woman to speak before the Indiana Legislature, when she and two other suffragists presented the first suffrage petition. Thomas also co-edited *The Lily* and *The Mayflower*, two local suffrage newspapers.

1881—Indiana legislators passed an amendment granting women the right to vote, but Indiana's Constitution required amendments to pass two successive legislative sessions. In 1883, the House Speaker refused to reintroduce the suffrage amendment for a second House vote, dooming the suffrage effort.

1913—Groups like the Woman's Franchise League and the Indianapolis Equal Suffrage Society joined forces to petition and lobby legislators, give speeches, and attract suffrage advocates.

1917—The Indiana General Assembly passed three bills: one that gave women the right to vote in presidential elections, and the others that conveyed municipal and primary election voting rights to women. Suffragists immediately began registering women to vote, with 18,000 women registering in Vanderburgh County and 40,000 registering in Indianapolis. But the Indiana Supreme Court short-circuited the vote for women by striking down the new law, ruling that it violated the existing state constitution.

January 16, 1920—Before suffragists were able to convince Indiana legislators to amend the state constitution, the legislature voted to ratify the 19th Amendment.

* A temperance activist, in 1847, Way and 80 other women stormed saloons and drugstores in Winchester to drain liquor barrels.

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