

New Mexico

1896—National suffragist leaders Laura Johns and Julia Nelson worked with local suffragists to found the New Mexico Woman Suffrage Association (NMWSA), as well as ten local suffrage clubs in the territory.

1910—With statehood, New Mexico's Constitutional Convention adopted a state constitution that was almost impossible to amend, as successful amendments would require three-quarters of the total vote, and two-thirds of the vote in each county. Suffragists recognized that this requirement made passage of state suffrage reform in Nevada very difficult, so they advocated for narrower suffrage rights, such as voting for school boards and municipal suffrage. Even these limited efforts failed. NMWSA dissolved after several years.

1914—A new NMWSA formed to lobby in support of the federal suffrage amendment.

1915—Santa Fe's suffragists held a suffrage parade with more than 150 women marching and riding in automobiles. Suffragists planned the Santa Fe parade route in detail, taking suffragists past the state capital building and ending in front of the home of the U.S. Senator Thomas Catron, a notorious suffrage opponent. The local press coverage covered the parade extensively, and Senator Catron continued to oppose the suffrage amendment.

1917—Adelina Otero-Warren* quickly became a major force in the suffrage movement. Otero-Warren ensured that materials were published in both Spanish and English for the large Spanish-speaking community. In addition to serving as the vice-chair of the New Mexico branch of the Congressional Union, Otero-Warren served as chair of both the New Mexico Republican State Committee's Women Division and the Legislative Committee of the New Mexico Federation of Women's Clubs. These connections allowed Otero-Warren to leverage her political connections for the suffrage movement and its lobbying efforts. Mabel Vernon and Ella Thompson assisted Otero-Warren in outreach to Spanish speaking communities.

February 21, 1920—New Mexico voted to ratify the 19th Amendment, making it the 32nd state to ratify.

*Otero-Warren ran for Congress in 1922. She won the Republican primary but lost in the general election.

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