

Utah

1870—To promote statehood and Mormonism, Utah's Territorial Legislature granted women over 21 full voting rights.

1887—As a condition of Utah's statehood, the U.S. Congress passed the Edmunds-Tucker Act stripping Utah's women of their right to vote.*

1889— Emmeline Wells and other suffragists founded the Woman Suffrage Association of Utah (WSAU). Wells also edited the *Woman's Exponent*, which reported on the latest suffrage news and legislation. WSAU advocated for Utah legislators to reinstate the women's right to vote and organized local WSAU chapters across Utah.

1894—The U.S. Congress enacted the Enabling Act, which set the terms for Utah's statehood. With a required Constitutional Convention approaching, Utah's suffragists saw the opportunity to regain the vote for women. In response, WSAU expanded its organizing efforts, establishing suffrage organizations in 19 of Utah's 27 counties. Suffragists approached both the Democratic and Republican parties to gain support.

1895—At Utah's Constitutional Convention, delegates voted to include suffrage in Utah's Constitution. Following the convention, Utah's all-male electorate approved the amendment by a 28,618 to 2,687 vote, and women regained the right to vote in 1896.

1896— Dr. Martha Hughes Cannon, a prominent Salt Lake City physician and suffragist, made history by defeating her husband to become the first woman elected to a State Senate. In 2024, Utah Legislators honored Dr. Hughes by placing her statue in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the U.S. Capitol.

September 30, 1919—Utah ratified the 19th Amendment.

*The history behind this early back-and-forth is fascinating and worthy of further discussion.

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