

PRIMARY SOURCE READERS

Eleanor Roosevelt



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Great Strides in Society

The year of 1920 brought a huge victory for women. After nearly 150 years, women won the right to vote. This act was just the beginning of a new era for women. They would go on to compete in the Olympics in 1928. By the end of the decade, they would hold 39 percent of all college degrees. Women could be doctors and lawyers. Even with these **accomplishments** (uh-KAM-plish-muhnts) many people still wanted women to stay at home.

There was one very important woman who broke all the rules. Early in life, she decided to be true to herself. She fought for equal rights for everyone. She was a writer, speaker, and advisor. She set her own agenda and her own goals as the wife of a president. Her name was Eleanor Roosevelt.



Eleanor Roosevelt delivers a speech.



Three proud women cast their first votes in an election.

Life in the 1920s

World War I, or the Great War, was over. People were moving on with their lives. For the first time in America, almost everyone could afford cars and radios.

The Nineteenth Amendment

The Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution gave women the right to vote. The right to vote is also called **suffrage** (SUH-fridge).

Sixty-sixth Congress of the United States of America;

At the First Session,

Began and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the nineteenth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and nineteen.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution extending the right of suffrage to women.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States.

“ARTICLE

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

“Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

E. H. Lillard

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Theodore Roosevelt
Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.

The Nineteenth Amendment changed the lives of all women in the United States.

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