



“We Stand *on their* Shoulders”

A History of Wisconsin Women and Voting



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

TRAVELING DISPLAY PROGRAM KIT

WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Traveling Display Program Kit

Exhibit Overview

Set-up Instructions and Suggested Layout

Condition Report

Program Suggestions

School Resources

Reading Lists

Local and National Information and Inspiration

Media Resources

WHS Contact Information

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US ONLINE AT
wisconsinhistory.org/votesforwomen





Exhibit Overview

“We Stand on their Shoulders: A History of Wisconsin Women and Voting” explores women’s suffrage and leadership after the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

The 19th Amendment laid the groundwork to enfranchise women but did not extend voting rights to all. A series of additional legislation between 1920 and 1982 broadened opportunities for women of all races to vote. This exhibit explores the landmark legislation, political advancements of women from 1919-1982, and the continuing conversation surrounding voting rights.

Note: Wisconsin’s history regarding the race to the 19th Amendment constructed the core of the exhibit “The Woman’s Hour Has Struck” which stood in the Wisconsin State Capitol from April through November 2019. The full text of that exhibit and more information can be found in the [Women’s Suffrage Centennial Celebration Toolkit](#).



Members of the Oshkosh Equal Suffrage League in their 4th of July float made up with a sailboat. Banners read “Votes for Women” and “We are Rudderless, We Need The Ballot.” Identified in the picture are Lilian Clark, Bernice Mocke, Helen West, Gertrude Hull, Josephine Van Slyke, Hester Lancaster, Katherine Forward, Jennie Robinson, and Maria Hilton. WHI IMAGE ID 5157

Set-Up Instructions & Suggested Layout

“We Stand on their Shoulders” is comprised of four stands with four two-sided banners measuring about 39 inches wide and 87 inches tall. Distance between the banners and any other structure (wall, chairs, or other banners) should measure at three feet for accessibility.

Visual instructions on how to assemble the banner stands can be found [online](#).

The exhibit content is organized chronologically. The order of the panels are:

- **[Panel 1]** “We stand on their shoulders” : A History of Wisconsin Women and Voting
- **[Panel 2]** “It is coming as the harvest follows the patient” : A Timeline of Wisconsin’s Suffrage History
- **[Panel 3]** “I received a signed statement that Wisconsin was first” : Wisconsin Ratifies the 19th Amendment
- **[Panel 4]** “Wisconsin is already in advance of most other States” : Passing the Equal Rights Amendment of 1921
- **[Panel 5]** “Declared to be citizens of the United States” : Affirming American Indian Suffrage
- **[Panel 6]** “No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting” : Protecting Voting Rights
- **[Panel 7]** “Women will have to make as hard a struggle for positions in our governing bodies as we did for suffrage” : Wisconsin’s Women Leaders
- **[Panel 8]** “We stand on their shoulders” : Continuing to Fight for Voting Rights

Citations for each of the quotes can be found running along the size of the banners. If possible, pairing the exhibit with local artifacts, stories, or reading suggestions would best serve your local visitors. Our focus is on national and state stories.

Condition Report

Please complete the condition report and return it to the WHS Outreach Office within one week of receiving the display. If the display is missing pieces or damaged beyond normal wear and tear, please contact us immediately at travelingexhibits@wisconsinhistory.org.



Program Suggestions

- Host a discussion about women in local leadership positions
- Organize a voter registration drive
- Feature a movie night featuring films with powerful lead women characters (or suffrage movies like *Iron Jawed Angels* or *Suffragette*)
- Host a flapper party, “EqualiTEA,” or potluck to celebrate women’s enfranchisement
- Organize a women’s leadership book club (suggested reading list, pages 5-7)
- Host a naturalization ceremony
- Work with your local newspaper/blog to feature articles about the centennial commemoration and local activities
- Create social media posts to highlight women’s suffrage history and voting rights using historical materials in your collection if possible
- Conduct an oral history program with volunteers or students to record women’s voices and accomplishments in your community

The 2020 Women’s Vote Centennial Initiative website features a [program planning manual](#).

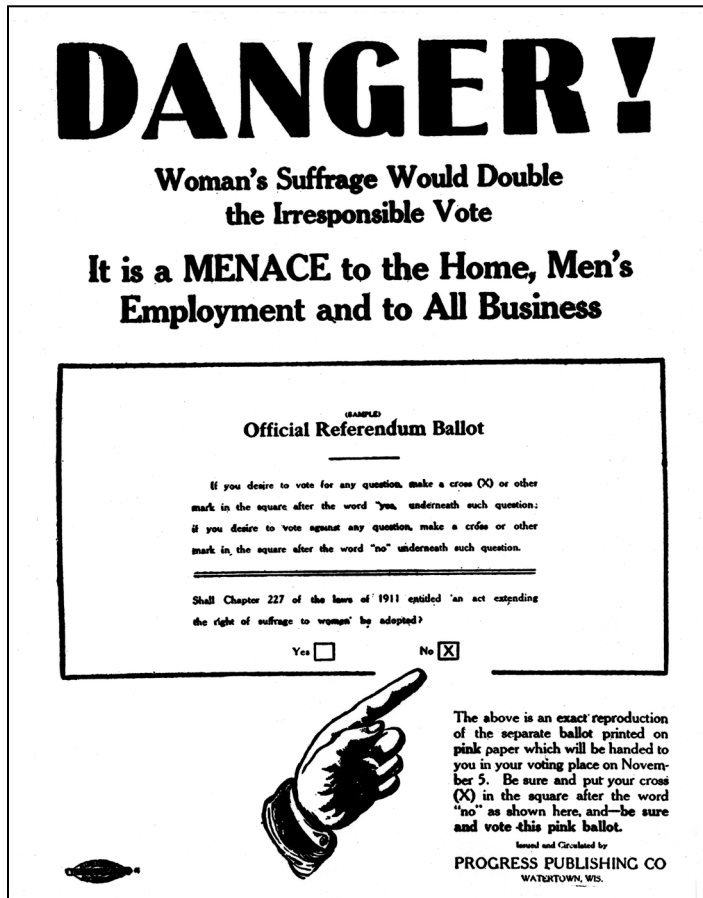


Parade tunic worn in Chicago, 1916.
Wisconsin Historical Museum, 1956.1450

School Resources

Check out the work that the Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Historical Society created on the history of women's leadership in the [History Makers Classroom Resource](#).

Library of Congress Women's Suffrage [Teacher's Guide](#) with primary sources.



Left: Anti-woman suffrage poster that reads, "Danger! Women's Suffrage would double the irresponsible vote! It is a menace to the Home, Men's Employment and All Business!" Printed in Watertown in 1912. WHI IMAGE ID 1912

Right: Suffragist Catherine Waugh McCullough of Illinois speaks from an open car, ca. 1912. Suffragists traveled across the United States to support the state-by-state suffrage effort. WHI IMAGE ID 1879

Reading List

THE HISTORY OF VOTING:

- Keyssar, Alexander. *The Right to Vote: The Contested History of Democracy in the United States*. New York: Basic Books, 2000.
- Waldman, Michael. *The Fight to Vote*. Simon & Schuster, 2016.

WISCONSIN WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

- McBride, Genevieve. "Theodora Winton Youmans and the Wisconsin Woman Movement." *Wisconsin Magazine of History*: Volume 71, number 4, Summer 1988, 242-75.
- McBride, Genevieve. *On Wisconsin Women*. Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 1993.
- "Theodora Winton Youmans 1863-1932." Wisconsin Historical Society.
"Theodora Winton Youmans (1863 - 1932) | <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS14693>
- "The Woman's Suffrage Movement." Wisconsin Historical Society.
<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS419>
- Unger, Nancy. *Belle La Follette: Progressive Era Reformer*. New York: Routledge, 2015.
- Youmans, Theodora W. "How Wisconsin Women Won the Ballot." *Wisconsin Magazine of History*: Volume 5, number 1, September 1921, 3-32,
<http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/WIReader/WER0124-12.html>

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

- Egge, Sara. *Women Suffrage and Citizenship in the Midwest, 1870-1920*. University of Iowa Press, 2018.
- Gordon, Ann, et al. *African American Women and the Vote, 1847-1965*. Amherst, Massachusetts: University of Massachusetts Press, 1997.
- Marshall, Susan E. *Splintered Sisterhood: Gender and Class in the Campaign against Women Suffrage*. Madison, Wisconsin: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1997.
- Sherr, Lynn. *Failure is Impossible: Susan B. Anthony in Her Own Words*. Broadway Books, 1996.



MODERN VOTING

- Fowler, Robert Booth. *Wisconsin Votes: An Electoral History*. Madison, Wisconsin: The University of Wisconsin Press, 2008.
- Nealy, Lisa Nikol. *African American Women Voters*. Lanham, Maryland: University Press of America, 2009.

FOR KIDS

- Bardhan-Qualle, Sudipta. *Ballots for Belva: The True Story of a Woman's Race for the Presidency*. Harry N. Abrams, 2015.
- Bausum, Ann. *With Courage and Cloth: Winning the Fight for a Woman's Right to Vote*. National Geographic Children's Books, 2004.
- Kann, Bob. *Belle and Bob La Follette, Partners in Politics*. Madison, Wisconsin: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2008.
- Robbins, Dean. *Miss Paul and the President: The Creative Campaign for Women's Right to Vote*. Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2016.
- Shamir, Ruby. *What's the Big Deal About Elections*. Philomel Books, 2018.
- Winter, Jonah. *Lillian's Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965*. Schwartz& Wade, 2015.

Local and National Information and Inspiration

LOCAL

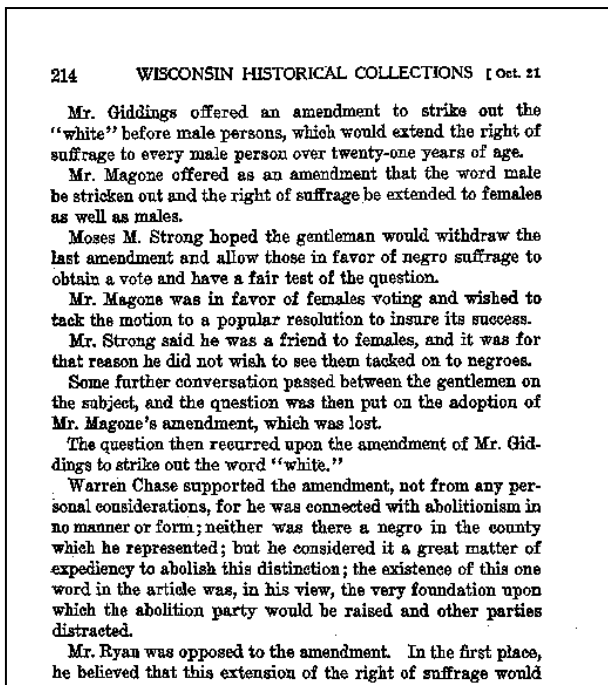
- Neenah Historical Society [exhibit celebrates 100th Anniversary of women's right to vote](#)
- Oshkosh Women's Suffrage [Hometown Stories](#)



NATIONAL

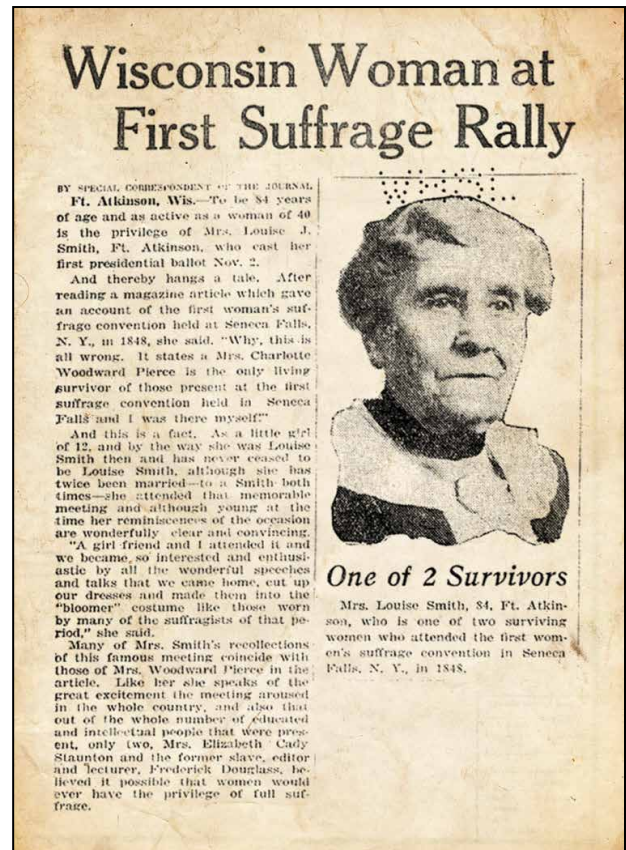
- American Association of State and Local History [19th Amendment Centennial Values Statement](#)
- [Indiana Women's Suffrage Centennial](#)
- Library of Congress "Women Fight for the Vote" [exhibition](#)
- National Women's History Museum [Online Exhibits](#)
- 2020 Women's Vote Centennial Initiative [website](#)
- American Library Association Public Programs Office [resource round-up](#)

Information on other traveling banner displays available through the Wisconsin Historical Society can be found at wisconsinhistory.org/travelingexhibits. For additional information, email please email travelingexhibits@wisconsinhistory.org or contact Kristen Leffelman at (414) 988-8655.



Left: Report of the Wisconsin Constitutional Convention, October 21, 1846

Right: *Milwaukee Journal*, December 5, 1920



Media Resources

PRESS RELEASE TEMPLATE

For immediate release

Contact name
Contact phone number
Contact email address

<Date it will be sent>

New Travelling Display Celebrates the History of Wisconsin Women and Voting

<City or Town Name>, Wis. – The Wisconsin Historical Society is touring a new travelling display, “We Stand on their Shoulders,” which celebrates the history of Wisconsin women and voting. The banner exhibit will be on display at <Name of Location> from <Dates it will be at location>.

“The year 2020, marks one hundred years since some women were granted the right to vote,” said Jenny Kalvaitis, Coordinator of Secondary Education at the Wisconsin Historical Society. “But what a lot of people may not realize is that Wisconsin was the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment and pass a statewide Equal Rights Amendment.”

“We Stand on their Shoulders: A History of Wisconsin Women and Voting” explores women’s suffrage and leadership after the ratification of the 19th Amendment. The 19th Amendment laid the groundwork to enfranchise women but did not extend voting rights to all. A series of additional legislation between 1920 and 1982 broadened opportunities for women of all races to vote. This exhibit explores the landmark legislation, political advancements of women from 1919-1982, and the continuing conversation surrounding voting rights.

<Quote from a local source on the excitement and importance of the display coming to your area. (this could be someone at the location where it will be, a local politician, local historical society or other important community leader)>

Along with the travelling display, the Wisconsin Historical Society has provided information for program suggestions, school resources, reading lists and local and national information.

<If you have an events that will go along with the display, put that information here>

For more information about the travelling exhibit visit wisconsinhistory.org/suffrageexhibit.

About Wisconsin Historical Society

The Wisconsin Historical Society, founded in 1846, ranks as one of the largest, most active and most diversified state historical societies in the nation. As both a state agency and a private membership organization, its mission is to help people connect to the past by collecting, preserving and sharing stories. The Wisconsin Historical Society serves millions of people every year through a wide range of sites, programs and services. For more information, visit wisconsinhistory.org.

<About HOST SITE NAME>
<INFORMATION>



SOCIAL MEDIA

Recommended hashtags:

#WisconsinHistory

#HerStory

We encourage your organization to post to Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Encourage community members and visitors to do the same! This will help highlight activities, celebrations, and organizations around the state and provide inspiration for other communities and organizations.

Please tag the Wisconsin Historical Society in the posts, stories or tweets so the Society can share the posts, retweet the tweets, and/or add to Society's Instagram stories.

Facebook: @wisconsinhistoricalsociety

Instagram: @wisconsinhistoricalsociety

Twitter: @WisHistory



Milwaukee Journal, November 2, 1919





“We Stand *on their* Shoulders”

A History of Wisconsin Women and Voting

Location | Date

Body text goes here. (40 words max)



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

[URL here](#)

Remove box and insert logo here
(landscape version preferred)

WHS Contact Information

Information on other traveling banner displays available through the Wisconsin Historical Society can be found at wisconsinhistory.org/travelingexhibits.

For additional information, email please email travelingexhibits@wisconsinhistory.org or contact Kristen Leffelman at (414) 988-8655.



Former Wisconsin State Senator David G. James, Republican from Richland Center (1908–1912) and the father of suffragist Ada James. The photograph was likely taken June 13, 1919, after James delivered Wisconsin's ratification of the 19th Amendment in Washington, DC. James is surrounded by suffragists at the National Woman's Party headquarters building at 14 Jackson Place. The document he is holding is his appointment by Governor Philipp as Special Courier to deliver the ratification. WHI IMAGE ID 35075



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY