Women Win the Vote: 100 Years of the 19th Amendment

Women Win the Vote!: 19 for the 19th Amendment



by Nancy B. Kennedy

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On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, guaranteeing women the right to vote. This was a major victory for the women's suffrage movement, which had been fighting for this right for decades.

The 19th Amendment was the culmination of a long and difficult struggle. Women had been working for the right to vote since the mid-19th century. In 1848, the first women's rights convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York. At this convention, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott presented a Declaration of Sentiments that called for, among other things, the right of women to vote.

In the years that followed, women's suffrage activists worked tirelessly to promote their cause. They organized marches, held rallies, and lobbied

politicians. They also faced opposition from those who believed that women should not be allowed to vote. Some people argued that women were too emotional or too ignorant to make sound decisions about politics. Others argued that giving women the vote would lead to the downfall of society.

Despite the opposition, the women's suffrage movement continued to grow. In 1890, the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) was founded. NAWSA was a powerful lobbying organization that worked to pass women's suffrage laws at the state and federal level. In 1916, NAWSA merged with the Woman's Party, a more radical group that advocated for women's suffrage through protests and civil disobedience.

The women's suffrage movement gained momentum in the early 20th century. In 1917, New York became the first state to pass a women's suffrage law. By 1920, women had won the right to vote in 36 states. In 1920, Congress passed the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed women the right to vote in all 50 states.

The ratification of the 19th Amendment was a major victory for women's rights. It marked the end of a long and difficult struggle, and it paved the way for women to participate fully in American society.

The Women Who Made It Happen

The 19th Amendment was the result of the hard work and dedication of many women. Some of the most notable women who fought for and won the right to vote include:

 Susan B. Anthony was one of the most prominent leaders of the women's suffrage movement. She was a tireless advocate for women's rights, and she played a key role in the passage of the 19th Amendment.

- Elizabeth Cady Stanton was another leading figure in the women's suffrage movement. She was a brilliant writer and orator, and she helped to shape the intellectual arguments for women's suffrage.
- Lucretia Mott was a Quaker minister and abolitionist who was also a strong advocate for women's rights. She was one of the organizers of the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls.
- Lucy Stone was a women's rights activist who was known for her radical views. She argued that women should be independent of men, and she refused to marry her husband until he agreed to give her full legal rights.
- Alice Paul was a founder of the National Woman's Party. She was a militant suffragist who advocated for women's suffrage through protests and civil disobedience.

These are just a few of the many women who fought for and won the right to vote. Their work has made a lasting impact on American society.

The Legacy of the 19th Amendment

The 19th Amendment has had a profound impact on American society. It has opened up new opportunities for women, and it has helped to create a more just and equitable world.

In the years since the ratification of the 19th Amendment, women have made great strides in all areas of life. They have served in high elected office, they have become leaders in business and industry, and they have made significant contributions to the arts, sciences, and humanities.

The 19th Amendment has also helped to change the way that we think about women. We no longer believe that women are inferior to men. We now recognize that women are equal partners in society, and that they have the same rights and opportunities as men.

The 19th Amendment is a testament to the power of democracy. It shows that when people come together to fight for a just cause, they can make a difference. The 19th Amendment is a reminder that we must never give up on our dreams, no matter how difficult they may seem.

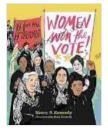
The ratification of the 19th Amendment was a major victory for women's rights. It was the culmination of a long and difficult struggle, but it was ultimately successful thanks to the hard work and dedication of many women. The 19th Amendment has had a profound impact on American society. It has opened up new opportunities for women, and it has helped to create a more just and equitable world.

To learn more about the women who fought for and won the right to vote, read *Women Win the Vote: 19 for the 19th Amendment*. This comprehensive book tells the story of the 19th Amendment and the women who made it happen.

Women Win the Vote: 19 for the 19th Amendment is available now in hardcover, paperback, and e-book formats.

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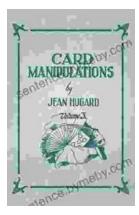
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