“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

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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
"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 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](#).
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 to 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
THE HISTORY OF VOTING:


WISCONSIN WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE


WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE

MODERN VOTING


FOR KIDS


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

Mr. Gidding offered an amendment to strike out the "white" before male person, which would extend the right of suffrage to every male person over twenty-one years of age.

Mr. Magone offered as an amendment that the word male be stricken out and the right of suffrage be extended to females as well as males.

Moore M. Strong hoped the gentlemen would withdraw the last amendment and allow those in favor of negro suffrage to obtain a vote and have a fair test of the question.

Mr. Magone was in favor of female voting and wished to test the motion to a popular resolution to insure its success.

Mr. Strong said he was a friend to females, and it was for that reason he did not wish to see them tested on negroes.

Some further conversation passed between the gentlemen on the subject, and the question was then put on the adoption of Mr. Magone's amendment, which was lost.

The question then recurred upon the amendment of Mr. Gidding to strike out the word "white."

Warren Chase supported the amendment, not from any personal considerations, for he was connected with abolitionism in no manner of form; neither was there a negro in the society which he represented; but he considered it a great matter of expediency to abolish this distinction; the existence of this one word in the article was, in his view, the very foundation upon which the abolition party would be raised and other parties distracted.

Mr. Ryan was opposed to the amendment. In the first place, he believed that this extension of the right of suffrage would

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

**Right:** Milwaukee Journal, December 5, 1920
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
“We Stand on their Shoulders”
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Location | Date
Body text goes here. (40 words max)

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT URL here
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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