

“1920 – 2020: Women Voting – America Changing”
A Project of the League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad



The year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment: *The right of citizens to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.* It is also the 100th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters, a non-partisan organization founded by the suffragists for the purpose of registering voters and educating them on the issues once the 19th amendment was ratified. In recognition of this historic occasion, the League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad (LWVPT) is reaching out to the entire community to become involved in commemorating this important event.

“1920 – 2020: Women Voting – America Changing” is the official title of the initiative created by the LWVPT to engage, inform, and commemorate the ratification of the 19th amendment to the US Constitution.

The goals for the 2020 initiative as established by the LWVPT planning committee are as follows:

- To engage the public, especially young people, in better understanding the 72 year (1848 -1920) suffrage movement which led to the ratification of the 19th amendment and gave many women the right to vote.
- To examine the role of women and men of color in the suffrage movement.
- To explore social and political factors that contributed to the prolonged struggle to make the right to vote a reality for all women.
- To explore the right of citizenship and the right to vote in America from 1920 to 2020.
- To recognize and celebrate the transformational changes in America following suffrage for all women.

The entire community is invited to be involved through educational, cultural, and other formal and informal programs and events. We sincerely hope that your organization or members of your organization will join us by incorporating this topic into programs or events already being planned by your organization or by sponsoring programs or events created especially for this occasion. If you are interested in learning more about this initiative, we invite you to send a representative to one of our planning committee meetings. For information, please contact the League coordinator, Willie Taylor at wtaylor001@triad.rr.com.

The series will officially begin in February, 2020, and will culminate in October, 2020, with the dedication of a monument to Gertrude Weil, who founded the League of Women Voters of North Carolina on the steps of the Guilford County Courthouse; however, programs and events can be planned at any time before, during or after these dates.

Thank you for your interest in this project, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Suggested readings include:

Biographies of Susan B. Anthony, Fredrick Douglass, Lucretia Coffin Mott, Sojourner Truth, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Ida B. Wells-Barnett and the many other brave women and men involved in the Suffrage Movement

The Woman's Hour by Elaine Weiss

African American Women in the Struggle for the Vote, 1850 – 1920 by Rosalyn Terborg-Penn

Votes for Women! American Suffragists and the Battle for the Ballot by Winfred Conkling

The Women's Suffrage Movement edited by Sally Roesche Wagner

Gertrude Weil: Jewish Progressive in the New South by Leonard Rogoff

One Woman, One Vote: Rediscovering the Women's Suffrage Movement edited by Marjorie Spruill Wheeler.