



1837



1843



1967



1972

## Timeline

- 1789** U.S. Constitution is ratified. The terms "persons," "people" and "electors" allow for interpretation of those beings to include men and women

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- 1837** Oberlin College in Ohio becomes first coeducational college in the U.S.

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- 1839** Mississippi becomes first state to grant married women right to hold property in their own names, independent of their husbands

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- 1840** Catherine Brewer becomes first woman to receive a bachelor's degree, from Georgia Female College (now Wesleyan College) in Macon, Ga.

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- 1843** Isabella Baumfree takes the name Sojourner Truth and goes on to become a famed abolitionist and women's rights activist

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- 1848** First women's rights convention is held in Seneca Falls, N.Y., to sign the Declaration of Rights and Sentiments

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- 1849** Elizabeth Blackwell becomes first woman to receive a medical degree, from Geneva Medical College (now SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, N.Y.)

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- 1869** First women's suffrage law is passed, in territory of Wyoming

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- 1872** Susan B. Anthony is arrested for trying to vote

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- 1872** Victoria Claflin Woodhull becomes first woman Presidential candidate, for the Equal Rights Party

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- 1916** Jeannette Rankin of Montana becomes first woman elected to Congress

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- 1920** 19th Amendment gives women right to vote

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- 1924** Miriam Ferguson (Texas) and Nellie Tayloe Ross (Wyoming) become first women elected governor

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- 1932** Amelia Earhart becomes first woman to fly solo across Atlantic

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- 1932** Hattie Caraway of Arkansas becomes first woman elected to Senate

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- 1933** Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins becomes first woman Cabinet member

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- 1938** Fair Labor Standards Act establishes minimum wage without regard to gender

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- 1955** First lesbian organization in U.S., Daughters of Bilitis, is founded

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- 1963** Equal Pay Act is passed by Congress to close gender pay gap

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- 1963** Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique* is published

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- 1964** Title VII of Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits employment discrimination on basis of race, color, religion, national origin or sex

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- 1967** Muriel Siebert becomes first woman to own a seat on the New York Stock Exchange

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- 1972** Title IX bans gender discrimination in federally funded education programs

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- 1972** Katharine Graham of The Washington Post Co. becomes first woman CEO of a Fortune 500 company

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- 1972** Shirley Chisholm becomes first major-party woman Presidential candidate

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- 1973** In *Roe v. Wade*, Supreme Court protects woman's right to terminate pregnancy

**1977** Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Patricia Harris becomes first Black woman Cabinet member

**1978** Pregnancy Discrimination Act prohibits discrimination "on basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions"

**1981** Sandra Day O'Connor becomes first woman Supreme Court justice

**1982** For the first time, more women than men receive bachelor's degrees

**1984** In *Roberts v. United States Jaycees*, Supreme Court prohibits public organizations from refusing membership to someone because of gender

**1984** Geraldine Ferraro becomes first major-party woman Vice Presidential nominee

**1987** Congress declares March as National Women's History Month

**1990** Dr. Antonia Novello becomes first woman (and first Latino) U.S. surgeon general

**1993** Family and Medical Leave Act provides job protection and leave for family, medical issues

**1993** Janet Reno becomes first woman Attorney General

**1994** Gender Equity in Education Act establishes programs to train teachers to treat boys and girls equally

**1997** Madeleine Albright becomes first woman Secretary of State

**1997** Small Business Administration Administrator Aida Alvarez becomes first Latina to hold Cabinet-level position

**1998** Supreme Court rules that employers are liable for workplace sexual harassment

**1999** Eileen Collins becomes first woman to command shuttle mission

**2001** Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao becomes first Asian woman Cabinet member

**2007** Nancy Pelosi becomes first woman Speaker of the House

**2008** Hillary Clinton becomes only First Lady to run for President

**2009** President Obama signs into law the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, intended to reduce the pay gap between men and women

**2009** Sonia Sotomayor becomes first Latina Supreme Court Justice

**2014** General Motors becomes largest company with a woman CEO (Mary Barra)

**2015** Two big accounting firms elect their first women CEOs, Cathy Engelbert at Deloitte and Lynne Doughtie at KPMG



Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Catalyst, Infoplease.com, Women's International Center