

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF WOMEN'S INDEPENDENCE

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A Timeline of Women's Independence in the U.S.  
presented alongside a historical perspective

1769 - Present (2018)

## Women's History

1769

*The colonies decree women cannot own property in their own name or keep their own earnings*

1777

*All states pass laws which take away women's right to vote*

1839

*The first state (Mississippi) grants women the right to hold property in their own names with permission from their husbands*

1872

*Susan B. Anthony casts her first vote to test whether the 14th Amendment would be interpreted to guarantee women the right to vote. She is convicted of "unlawful voting"*

1873

*Supreme Court rules that a state has the right to exclude a married woman from practicing law*

## Historical Perspective

1776

*July 4th - Declaration of Independence signed*

1791

*Bill of Rights passed*

1848

*Gold discovered in California - Western Gold Rush begins*

1863

*Emancipation Proclamation ending slavery in the U.S.*

1868

*14th Amendment is passed, defining national citizenship and forbidding states to restrict the basic rights of citizens*

**1876**

*Alexander Graham Bell invents the telephone*

**1890**

*The first state grants women the right to vote in all elections*

**1895**

*The Lumière brothers publicly demonstrate their first film projector*

**1900**

*By this year, every state has passed legislation granting married women the right to keep their own wages to own property in their own name*

**1906 - 1908**

*First radio program broadcast is released; Ford Motor Company assembly line is created*

**1916**

*The first woman, Jeanette Rankin, is the first woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives*

**1914 - 1915**

*World War 1 begins; Birth of a Nation (first feature film) is released*

**1920**

*The 19th Amendment is ratified ensuring women the right to vote*

**1923**

*The first version of an Equal Rights Amendment is introduced, "Men and Women shall have equal rights throughout the U.S. and every place subject to its jurisdiction"*

**1922 - 1923**

*Walt Disney Company formed; Founding of Time Magazine*

**1930**

*Invention of the Twinkie*

**1932**

*Hattie Wyatt Caraway, of Arkansas, becomes the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate*

**1936**

*First televised Olympic Games*

**1939 - 1940**

*The Wizard of Oz released; Bugs Bunny and Tom and Jerry debuted; World War 2 begins*

**1950 - 1950**

*The comic strip, Peanuts, by Charles M. Schulz is first published. I Love Lucy debuts on CBS*

**1962**

*First James Bond movie, Dr. No, released; Wal-Mart founded*

**1963**

*The Equal Pay Act is passed promising equitable wages for the same work regardless of religion, race, national origin or sex of the worker*

**1969**

*California adopts nation's first "no-fault" divorce law, allowing divorce by mutual consent*

**1969**

*Neil Armstrong walks on the moon*

**1975**

*Bill Gates founds Microsoft; The TV series, Wheel of Fortune and Saturday Night Live premiere on NBC; Jaws becomes first blockbuster released*

**1981**

*Sandra Day O'Connor becomes the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court. The high court overturns state laws designating a husband as "head and master" with unilateral control of property owned jointly with his wife.*

**1982**

*Release of Michael Jackson's "Thriller"*

**1989**

*Animated comedy, The Simpsons, debuts*

**1992**

*The Year of the Woman: Record numbers of women are elected to Congress with four women winning Senate elections and two dozen women elected to the first terms in the house*

**1993**

*The release of Jurassic Park; first World-Wide-Web browser, Mosaic, released*

**1994**

*The Violence against Women Act funds services for victims of rape and domestic violence and allows women to seek civil rights remedies for gender related crimes*

**1994**

*The launch of Amazon.com; "Friends" debuts*

**2001**

*September 11 attacks (9/11); iPod and iTunes launched*

**2007**

*Nancy Pelosi becomes the first female speaker of the house*

**2009**

*The Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act allows victims of pay discrimination to file a complaint with the govt. against their employer*

**2009**

*Barack Obama becomes the first African-American President of the United States*

**2013**

*The ban against women in military combat positions is removed overturning a 1994 Pentagon decision restricting women from combat roles*

**2010**

*The Apple iPad is released*

**2016**

*Hillary Clinton secures the Democratic nomination becoming the first U.S. woman to lead the ticket of a major party.*

**2017**

*Congress has a record number of women (104 female House members and 21 female Senators) including the chamber's first Latina, Catherine Cortez Masto*

**2018**

*Yet to be written ...*