

Timeline



1840



1849



1972



1972

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1872 Susan B. Anthony is arrested for trying to vote

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

1916 Jeannette Rankin of Montana becomes first woman elected to Congress

1920 19th Amendment gives women right to vote

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

1932 Amelia Earhart becomes first woman to fly solo across Atlantic

1932 Hattie Caraway of Arkansas becomes first woman elected to Senate

1933 Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins becomes first woman Cabinet member

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

1940 Hattie McDaniel is the first African American to win an Oscar

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

1963 Equal Pay Act is passed by Congress

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

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

1972 Title IX bans gender discrimination in federally funded education programs

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

1972 Shirley Chisholm becomes first major-party woman Presidential candidate

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 is 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 pilot and command a Space Shuttle

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

2002 Halle Berry is the first Black woman to win Academy Award for best actress

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)

2014 Ava DuVernay becomes the first African American woman nominated for Golden Globe for best director

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

2016 Hillary Clinton becomes the first woman presidential nominee for a major political party

2016 Kamala Harris becomes California's third female U.S. senator and first of Jamaican or Indian descent

2016 Massachusetts passes a first of its kind law, effective July 1, 2018, forbidding employers from asking about salary history on job interviews and requiring men and women be paid equally if they do "comparable work"

2017 The Women's March on Washington brings nearly 500,000 activists to D.C. to protest for women's rights

2017 Michelle Buck appointed first female CEO of Hershey in the company's 123-year history

2017 Kelly Grier becomes the first woman to lead EY in the U.S.

2018 Some of Hollywood's most notable women unveil Time's Up, an initiative to help working-class women fight back against sexual assault.

2018 Hundreds of thousands of women and their male supporters turn out for the second Women's March

2018 Cynt Marshall is named CEO of the Dallas Mavericks



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