

# What Happened in Washington?

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The fight for women's suffrage in Washington is an inspiring story. It includes political intrigue, controversy, hard work, and even some fun.

This struggle that lasted a half-century. Women fought for – and won – the right to vote in Washington *two times*. They fought for this right both when Washington was a territory and then again when it was a state.

Washington women got the right to vote in the 1883. But in 1887, the Washington Territorial Supreme Court blocked that right. A year later, Washington lawmakers tried to pass a law letting women vote. But the court stopped that law, which meant that women still couldn't vote.

Still, women kept fighting for equality. They partnered with farmers and workers to support rights for people who were less powerful. They organized a grassroots campaign, which means they tried to convince everyday people to support them. Finally, they convinced men in Washington to vote to change the state constitution to give women the right to vote in Washington in 1910! But most Native American women, some Asian women, and women who could not read and speak English still did not get the right to vote.

This made Washington the fifth state in the country to give women the right to vote. This event put more energy into the national movement for women's suffrage. In 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave women around the country the right to vote.

Women voted for laws, policies, and governmental action that took care of women, children, and families. Women also joined other activist campaigns. And women's work to fight for equal rights continues today.

After they got the right to vote, women voted for laws, policies, and governmental action that took care of women, children, and families. Women also joined other activist campaigns.



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Footer images, left to right: "Woman forever march," Washington State Historical Society Catalog ID Number: 2010.151.4; "Woman's suffrage pin," Washington State Historical Society Catalog ID Number: C2008.0.132; "Votes for women: official organ of Washington Equal Suffrage Association," Washington State Historical Society Catalog ID Number 2000.104.38.14