



## **The League of Women Voters through the Decades**

**As our democracy has grown and faced challenges, the League of Women Voters has grown with it. In celebration of Women's History Month, we've put together this slide show highlighting just one accomplishment for every decade of the League's 96-year history.**

**LWV**  
LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®



Founded just before passage of the **19th Amendment**, the League of Women Voters made clear from the beginning that its focus would be greater than the “women’s vote”—and proved that commitment with comprehensive candidate questionnaires, get-out-the-vote drives and, in 1928, ***Meet the Candidates***, the first national radio broadcast of a candidate forum.

**1920s**



When the 1930s brought breadlines, the Dust Bowl and the greatest economic collapse in our country's history, the League stepped forward and worked tirelessly to build support for the centerpiece of **President Roosevelt's New Deal, the Social Security Act.**

**1930s**





After the Second World War left much of the world in ruins, the League helped lead the effort to **establish the new United Nations** and ensure that the United States would be a leading member. The League maintains official observer status today.

**1940s**



With Senator Joe McCarthy leading a witch hunt for communists in every corner of American society, League President Percy Maxim Lee called him out in testimony before Congress: *“[T]olerance and respect for the opinions of others is being jeopardized by men . . . whose minds are apparently unwilling to accept the necessity for dissent within a democracy.”*

**1950s**



In response to the growing civil rights crisis of the 1960s, the League directed its energies to **equality of opportunity** and built a solid foundation of support for **equal access to education, employment and housing**. The League also added apportionment to its national program and supported presidential suffrage for the residents of Washington, DC.

**1960s**





Throughout the 70s, passing the **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)** was a top League priority at the national and state levels. The League organized the National Business Council (NBC) for ERA, the first formal structure to bring major business leaders into the fight for ratification.

**1970s**



The League sponsored presidential debates in 1980 and 1984, but withdrew prior to the 1988 debates following pressure from the candidates' campaigns. Upon our withdrawal League president Nancy Neuman declared, **"The League has no intention of becoming an accessory to the hoodwinking of the American public."**

1980s

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After five years of hard work, the League helped win passage of the **National Voter Registration Act** in 1993. By making voter registration opportunities easier by creating a federal voter registration form as well as requiring state public assistance agencies, like the Department of Motor Vehicles, to ask clients if they wanted to register to vote, the **"Motor Voter" law** has enabled millions of citizens to be active participants in our democracy.

**1990s**

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In 2006, the League launched **VOTE411.org**, our one-stop elections information website that has helped millions of voters! **VOTE411.org** helps voters register to vote and find answers to last minute elections questions, including finding your polling place and its hours, whether or not you'll need to show an ID to vote, what to expect on your ballot, and much more.

**2000s**



In 2015, the League launched the largest voter registration and education campaign in our history. With a **special focus on communities of color, the elderly and young voters**, the campaign seeks to ensure the voices of all voters are heard on Election Day.

**2010s**