Women's Equality Day, August 26th, commemorates the struggles of women to be heard, as fierce advocates who gained the statutory right to vote. Also, known as women’s suffrage, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guarantees all American women the right to vote. The Amendment changed Federal law and the face of the American electorate forever. Women won legal recognition as equal citizens under the 19th Amendment. While women in some states could already vote before 1920, women in some states—particularly those of color—were blocked from voting after ratification.

Additionally, the voting rights of Native American women were not recognized until 1924. For Chinese American women, it was 1943, and for Japanese and other Asian American women it was 1952.

While African American women were quite active in the women’s suffrage movement of the early 19th century, they remained barred from voting for decades after their white counterparts. It wasn’t until passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, that African American women were granted the right to vote.
Women’s Equality Day gives us an opportunity to reflect on the continuing struggle for equality in the workplace and the role of women in our public life. Women in public service and government have long served this nation by working to clear barriers, enforce laws, implement new ideas, and change people’s attitudes.

Today we are reminded we all have the opportunity—and the responsibility—to create a society that gives both men and women equal voice.

The White House - A Proclamation on Women’s Equality Day, 2023
Women’s Equality Day Placemat

National Women’s History Museum

The National Women’s History Museum has joined the Made By Us coalition, an effort founded by civic and history organizations across the United States to present history in relevant, provocative and innovative ways.
Memorandum: 2023 Women's Equality Day Observance

The Department celebrates August 26, 2023 as Women's Equality Day. On this day, we acknowledge and celebrate the importance of the Women's Suffrage Movement and the resulting ratification of the 19th Amendment enshrining women's right to vote.

Library of Congress

The National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) Collection is a library of nearly 800 books and pamphlets documenting the suffrage campaign collected between 1890 and 1938 by members of NAWSA and donated to the Rare Books Division of the Library of Congress on November 1, 1938.
PBS and our member stations are America’s largest classroom, the nation’s largest stage for the arts and a trusted window to the world. In addition, PBS’s educational media helps prepare children for success in school and opens up the world to them in an age-appropriate way.

DEOMI Posters