

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
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- 1984** Geraldine Ferraro is first major-party woman Vice Presidential nominee
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- 1987** Congress declares March as National Women's History Month
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- 1990** Dr. Antonia Novello becomes first woman (and first Latino) U.S. surgeon general
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- 1993** Family and Medical Leave Act provides job protection and leave for family, medical issues
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- 1993** Janet Reno becomes first woman Attorney General
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- 1994** Gender Equity in Education Act establishes programs to train teachers to treat boys and girls equally
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- 1997** Madeleine Albright becomes first woman Secretary of State
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- 1997** Small Business Administration Administrator Aida Alvarez becomes first Latina to hold Cabinet-level position
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- 1998** Supreme Court rules that employers are liable for workplace sexual harassment
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- 1999** Eileen Collins becomes first woman to pilot and command a Space Shuttle
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- 2001** Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao becomes first Asian woman Cabinet member
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- 2002** Halle Berry is the first Black woman to win Academy Award for best actress
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- 2007** Nancy Pelosi becomes first woman Speaker of the House
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- 2008** Hillary Clinton becomes only First Lady to run for president
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- 2009** President Obama signs into law the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, intended to reduce the pay gap between men and women
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- 2009** Sonia Sotomayor becomes first Latina Supreme Court Justice
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- 2014** General Motors becomes largest company with a woman CEO (Mary Barra)
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- 2014** Ava DuVernay becomes the first African American woman nominated for Golden Globe for best director
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- 2015** Two big accounting firms elect their first women CEOs, Cathy Engelbert at Deloitte and Lynne Doughtie at KPMG
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- 2016** Hillary Clinton becomes the first woman presidential nominee for a major political party
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- 2016** Kamala Harris becomes California's third female U.S. senator and first of Jamaican or Indian descent
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- 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"
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- 2017** The Women's March on Washington brings nearly 500,000 activists to D.C. to protest for women's rights
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- 2017** Kelly Grier becomes the first woman to lead EY in the U.S.
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- 2017** Michelle Buck appointed first female CEO of Hershey in the company's 123-year history
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2018/2019

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

2018 Yalitza Aparicio is the first indigenous Mexican woman to be nominated for best actress at the Oscars, after her performance as a housekeeper in the acclaimed film "Roma".

2018 Seventeen Black women made history by winning judicial seats in Harris County, Texas. The 17 Democratic candidates were elected under a campaign they called "Black Girl Magic Texas."

2018 A record number of 117 women were ultimately sent to Congress this cycle — a significant jump from 2016 when 89 women were elected. Altogether, 127 women are due to serve in the 116th Congress.

2018/19 117 women were elected to office; 100 Democrats and 17 Republicans. Of them, 42 are women of color.

2018/19 Ayanna Pressley becomes the first African-American House member from Massachusetts.

2018/19 Jahana Hayes becomes the first Black congresswoman from Connecticut.

2018/19 Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, at age 29, becomes the youngest woman ever to serve in the United States Congress.

2018/19 Ilhan Omar becomes the first naturalized citizen from Africa and first Somali-American elected to the United States Congress and the first minority woman to serve as a U.S. representative from Minnesota. Along with Rashida Tlaib, she was one of the first two Muslim women elected to Congress.

2018/19 Rashida Tlaib becomes the first Palestinian-American woman in Congress and, with Ilhan Omar (D-MN), one of the first two Muslim women elected to Congress.

2019 Kathy Warden became CEO of Northrop Grumman on January 1, 2019.

2019 Ruth E. Carter and Hanna Beachler made history for their work on the film, "Black Panther." Carter is the first Black woman to win an Academy Award for Best Costume Design and Beachler is the first Black woman to win an Academy Award for Best Production Design.

2019 Cardi B becomes the first female rapper to win a GRAMMY Award for Best Rap Album.



2018 Cynt Marshall



2019 Kathy Warden



2018/19 Ilhan Omar



2018 Black Girl Magic Texas



2018/19 Ayanna Pressley



2018/19 Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez