

“The Nineteenth Amendment - Women Won the Right to Vote”

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Will you vote? In today's modern society women share the same rights as men, but most don't acknowledge how it got to this point. Our young generation doesn't know much about how many decades of inequality, and discrimination women had to go through during the early stages of American history. Women like Susan B. Anthony had to fight for 72 years and the campaign wasn't easy. Even through all this hardship fighting for equality and the right to vote, millions of men and women still don't vote. Voting is a very important process that more should participate in, so why do people choose not to vote?

In the 1920s women were treated as property, and it was very hard for Women to get certain jobs. From the website of the U.S. National Park Service. "Women were excluded from many jobs and educational opportunities. Most women at the time couldn't wear clothes that they wanted to and couldn't receive benefits from military work." Finally a movement started that would change the United States. In 1848 a group of abolitionist activist women gathered at Seneca Falls, New York, to talk about the issue of equal rights towards women. From History Channel.com, "most of the delegates to the Seneca Falls convention agreed: American women were autonomous individuals who deserved their own political identities". In the 1850s, the movement kept gathering more attention but slowed down when the Civil War began. From History.com, "starting in 1910 some states in the west began to extend the vote to women for the first time in almost 20 years". After fighting for decades, on August 18, 1920 the 19th Amendment to the constitution was ratified.

After these remarkable women achieved their goal, many citizens still don't vote. Some people don't vote due to the lack of interest towards the subject and others can't find enough information. From the Washington Post, "It was exceedingly difficult to get matter-of-fact, nonpartisan information about the candidates even with extensive internet research". With all of these barriers, the 2016 election turnout was at a low of only 61% of voting age people casting a ballot. Another reason people don't vote is because of the running candidates. A good example of this would be the 2016 presidential election. From Pewresearch.org, "in 2016 a majority of people who didn't vote cited a dislike of the candidates or campaign issues as their main reason for not participating according to a Pew research center analysis of new Census Bureau Data". Other reasons people don't vote is because of a busy schedule with 15% of people saying this, and another 14% of people having an illness or disability according to (Pewresearch.org)

Voting is one of the most important, crucial responsibilities and rights we U.S. citizens possess. Voting can be the chance to let your voice be heard and your opinions be acknowledged. Voting lets citizens tell the government what they want to happen in the future. Voting also gives citizens the ability to choose a representative or leader that believes in the same ideas as they do. Another reason it's important that you vote is because every single vote counts and an election could be decided by one vote. An example of a close election would be the 1960s presidential election between Richard Nixon and John F. Kennedy. If only one U.S. senator and if one person from each voting place voted differently, John F. Kennedy would not have become president.

What can we do to increase voter turnout? One big way to increase voter turnout is by creating an official voting booth app that could also include information about candidates and other important officials. Another idea could be allowing anyone to pre-schedule voting appointments. Being able to schedule a time to vote in advance would ease the fears of waiting in long lines.

The women's suffrage movement made a massive impact on the United States, and we citizens take our right to vote for granted. All women have this right due to the hardships these phenomenal women had to go through. Due to this movement we citizens should look at American history differently. Voting is a way for your voice to be heard and your ideas to be acknowledged. Voting can decide the future of our great Nation. Will you vote?

Resources/bibliography

1. www.history.com
2. Washingtonpost.com
3. www.pewresearch.org › topics › voter-participation
4. www.nps.gov › subjects › womenshistory