



New York Women's Suffrage Commission

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LT. GOVERNOR KATHY HOCHUL, CHAIR

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR KATHY HOCHUL KICKS OFF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND LAUNCHES MULTI-MEDIA CAMPAIGN FOR CENTENNIAL OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

NYS Women's Suffrage Commission Launches Updated Website, Media Campaign, and Commemorative Sticker

The Commission provided unprecedented grassroots support to organizations across state to boost commemorative activities in anticipation of increase in tourism

New Yorkers can celebrate the pioneering New York women of our state when they vote in 2020. #NYWomenLead campaign includes rollout of commemorative "I Voted" stickers featuring historic imagery of suffragist movement

Officially Declaring August 26th Women's Day at the State Fair and First-Ever Interactive Celebration of Women's Rights Movement in New York

ALBANY, NY – Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul today announced the kick-off of Women's History Month celebrations by the New York State Women's Suffrage Commission. The Suffrage Commission is celebrating Women's History Month as part of the centennial of women's suffrage, marking a century after the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified.

"This year marks the centennial of the 19th Amendment and women's right to vote in the U.S. Constitution. Now more than ever, we are committed to continuing our fight for equality and justice to help ensure equal opportunities and fairness for all," **said Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, Chair of the NYS Women's Suffrage Commission.** "During Women's History Month, we are launching an unprecedented multi-platform social media ad campaign encouraging New Yorkers to visit New York women's suffrage sites, join existing events across the state, and honor the legacy of New York suffragists by registering and exercising the right to vote. As the birthplace of the women's rights movement, we have accomplished a lot in New York leading the nation, but we still have a long way to go in the fight for women's rights and protections."

The New York State Women's Suffrage Commission, chaired by Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, launched a multi-platform social media campaign consisting of a series of several unique digital ads to run through the spring on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram highlighting the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote being enshrined in the U.S. Constitution.



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The ads encourage audiences to commemorate the centennial by:

- Visiting New York women's suffrage sites this year.
 - A list of these sites can be found [here](#).
- Joining existing events around the state.
- Registering (and exercising your right!) to vote.

For event calendar and voter registration link please visit NY.Gov/Suffrage.

The campaign will be branded using the #NYWomenLead hashtag on social media platforms. Through this hashtag, New Yorkers will be able to share stories of remarkable women in our state's history and honor their legacy.

In addition to this unprecedented digital campaign, New Yorkers can celebrate the pioneering women of our state when they vote in 2020. The #NYWomenLead campaign includes the rollout of commemorative "I Voted" stickers featuring historic imagery of suffragist movement photographs and artwork.

The New York Women's Suffrage Commission has provided grants to 15 key organizations throughout the state that support women's history and leadership.

Below is a list of the groups the Women's Suffrage Commission is supporting:

1. 1st Amendment-1st Vote (Buffalo, NY)
2. Women's Institute for Leadership and Learning (Seneca Falls, NY)
3. NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center in partnership with Auburn's Historic and Cultural Sites Commission (Auburn, NY)
4. 100 Hispanic Women National, Inc. (New York, NY)
5. Greater Rochester Area Branch American Association of University Women (Rochester, NY)
6. Friends of Ganondagan (Victor, NY)
7. Ticonderoga Historical Society (as fiscal agent) in partnership with the Greater Glens Falls Suffrage Centennial Committee, Clinton County Historical Society, and Crandall Public Library (Ticonderoga, NY)
8. Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry/Seneca Falls Visitor Center (Seneca Falls, NY)
9. 1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse Museum (Farmington, NY)
10. Rochester Museum & Science Center (Rochester, NY)
11. Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium Biennial Women's Symposium (Johnstown, NY)
12. Tioga County Historical Society & Tioga County Tourism (Owego, NY)
13. Women's Rights Alliance of New York State Inc. (Geneva, NY)
14. Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways (Cicero, NY).
15. Ontario County Historical Society (Canandaigua, NY)



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As part of Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul's role as both Chair of the Women's Suffrage Commission and Chair of the statewide Regional Economic Development Councils, women's history destinations across the state, including Susan B. Anthony Museum & House received over \$500,000 in state funding.

In addition, Women's Day at the New York State Fair will officially be held on Wednesday, August 26. The event coincides with Women's Equality Day, which officially commemorates the 1920 adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The State Fair will also feature the return of the historic parade.

The New York State Women's Suffrage 100th Anniversary Commemoration Commission was sponsored by Senator Betty Little and Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther and signed into law by Governor Andrew Cuomo in 2016.

The Commission is made up of the following representatives:

- **Kathy Hochul**, Lieutenant Governor (Chair)
- **Senator Betty Little**
- **Senator Velmanette Montgomery**
- **RoAnn Destito**, Commissioner, NYS Office of General Services
- **Laura E. Free**, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of History, Hobart and William Smith Colleges
- **Damali Wynter**, Sr. Business Development and Strategic Contracts Specialist, New York State's Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
- **Eve Walter**, Senior Research Scientist, Institute for Family Health; County Legislator, Ulster County
- **Dr. Jennifer Lemak**, NYS Museum Chief Curator of History
- **Dare Thompson**, President of the League of Women Voters of New York State
- **Deborah Hughes**, President & CEO, The Susan B. Anthony Museum & House
- **Sally Roesch Wagner**, Executive Director, The Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation
- **Susan Zimet**, President of 2020: Project Women, Inc.

"The women's suffrage centennial is such a special opportunity to commemorate the perseverance of the incredible female leaders of the 19th and early 20th centuries who championed and won for us the right to vote," said **Senator Betty Little, NYS Women's Suffrage Commission Member**. "I have been honored to serve on this commission with a great team of women from across the state. We've collaborated to develop a program that engages today's women to not only remind them of the hard fought battle of suffrage but inspire them to embrace the opportunities they have to lead in their own ways."



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"It is an honor to serve on New York's Women's Suffrage Commission and join Lieutenant Governor Hochul in our State's celebration of the Nineteenth Amendment's centennial," **said RoAnn Destito, Commissioner, NYS Office of General Services and NYS Women's Suffrage Commission Member.** "Women's History Month is a great time to pay tribute to suffragists such as New York's Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton who made it possible for women to step out from the shadows and have their voices heard and their votes counted."

"Thanks to the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, New York State is actively celebrating its pivotal role in women's suffrage across the state," **said Damali Wynter, Senior Business Development and Strategic Contacts Specialist, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and NYS Women's Suffrage Commission Member.** "In honor of Women's History month, we want to make sure that the legacy and remarkable stories of these pioneering women continues to be recognized and inspires new generations of women to take charge."

"As the living legacy of the women's suffrage movement, the League of Women Voters reminds everyone that the 'thank you' our foremothers would most want is for us to get more women registered and going to the polls," **said Dare Thompson, Immediate Past President, League of Women Voters of NYS and NYS Women's Suffrage Commission Member.**

"In 1848, a convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York demanding equal rights for women," **said Susan Zimet, President, 2020: Project Women, Inc. and NYS Women's Suffrage Commission Member.** "The right to vote was one of the many demands including equal pay for equal work, control of one's own body, equal justice under the law. On August 26, 2020 we will be celebrating the centennial anniversary of women gaining the right to vote. However, the women in New York, under the leadership of Governor Cuomo, have gained many of the rights demanded by our suffragist mothers that women across the nation have yet to benefit from. Women in New York will be celebrating both our past successes as well as our bright future.

"For over 100 years, New York State has played a pivotal role in the women's rights movement, and the City of Albany is proud to be the capital of that progress," **said Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan.** "As the City of Albany's first female Mayor, I am proud our City carries forward that same commitment to equity and equality to this day. Thank you to Governor Cuomo and Lieutenant Governor Hochul for continuing to honor and highlight the important role that women have played and continue to play in the history of our great State."

New York State is home to the first-ever Women's Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls on July 19 and 20, 1848 and organized by Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Sixty-nine years later, on Nov. 6, 1917, women in New York State won the right to vote. Three years later, the 19th Amendment was ratified, granting women the right to vote as protected by the United States Constitution. Forty five years later, the United States Congress passed The Voting Rights Act of 1965, finally allowing all American women the ability to vote.