

BLACK WOMEN X VOTING RIGHTS



1920: RATIFICATION OF THE 19TH AMMENDMENT

August 18, 1920

The 19th amendment granted women the right to vote on August 18, 1920. Paired with the 15th amendment, black women believed they were able to vote but in some states, they were met with threats and violence, required to take literacy tests, and pay poll taxes, making it difficult to cast their votes due to intimidation and lack of means.



1965: VOTING RIGHTS ACT

August 6, 1965

After over 3,000 people marched 54 miles in the state of Alabama to register black voters in the south and were met with violence, President Lyndon B Johnson took a closer look into the mistreatment of black people and their voting rights and signed the Voting Rights Act into law.. This law threw out literacy test requirements, and led toward the elimination of poll taxes. Thanks to the Voting Rights Act, black voter registration numbers increased in the South.



1913: WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE PARADE

Washington, D.C.

Although advised not to, black women participated in the Women's Suffrage Parade to call for a constitutional amendment to guarantee women the right to vote. Notable black women who participated in this parade were members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, activist Mary Church Terrell, and NAACP Founder Ida B. Wells.



1964: FANNIE LOU HAMER'S ADDRESS TO THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

"Sick and tired of being sick and tired!"

After being kicked off of her plantation for registering to vote, beaten by police, and required to take a literacy test 3 times, Fannie Lou Hamer attended the DNC with the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party to stand as the official delegation of the state of MS. Her moving speech which was televised raised awareness of the unjust practices around the voting rights for black people in the US.



2020: BLACK WOMEN ON BALLOT

Power to the Polls!

After the long fight for the right to vote, we now have black women who stand as candidates and in other political positions. In 1972, Shirley Chisolm was the first black woman to run for US President. In 1993, Carol Moseley Braun was the first black woman to serve in the US Senate. In 2008 Michelle Obama was the first black woman FLOTUS. And today, in 2020, we have Kamala Harris running for US Vice President.