

March 2011 Women's History Calendar

*Celebrating the 100th Anniversary
of California Women's Suffrage*

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Acknowledgements

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This calendar was produced and designed by John Cornelison and Carley Herron from the California Research Bureau. If you have any suggestions of other famous California women for future publications, please e-mail us at crb@library.ca.gov.

Suffrage Defeated

November 3, 1896

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SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS-ADOPTED, AND VOTE. 171

Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 11.
(Statutes of 1895, page 453.)

Proposing an amendment of section 1 of article II, relative
to rights of suffrage—permitting women to vote.

*Election November 3, 1896. Rejected. Yes, 110,355; No,
137,099.*

*On November 3, 1896, Amendment 11 on the “rights
of suffrage – permitting women to vote” was defeated
by the statewide vote of 137,099 opposed and 110,355
in favor.*



Clara Shortridge Foltz

(1849-1934)

||

*... though the battle has been
long and hard-fought it
was worth while.*

||

*After writing the law that allowed women to become lawyers in California,
I was the first woman to pass the Bar in the state. I was both a suffragist
and an innovative lawyer for more than 50 years. I was one of the original
California suffragists, and I was fortunate to be one of the few to live long
enough to vote after Amendment 8 passed in 1911.*



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March

1



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Grace Dorris

(1887-1968)

*I was the first woman
to introduce a bill in
California.*

*I introduced legislation to
pay for public defenders.*

Esto Broughton

(1890-1956)

*I was the first woman
Democrat in the Legislature.*

*I was the first woman to
preside over a full session of the
Assembly.*



March

2



The Yellow Ribbon

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

Volume I.

SAN FRANCISCO, OCTOBER, 1906

Number 1.

PROGRESS OF EQUAL SUFFRAGE IN CALIFORNIA

MARY SIMPSON SPERRY
President of the California Equal Suffrage Association

An President of the California Equal Suffrage Association, I am requested to write of the progress of equal suffrage in our State. It is a long story, covering a period of thirty-eight years. For nearly a score of years after California was admitted into the Union no word seems to have been uttered by tongue or pen demanding political equality for women, none at least which reached the public ear.

The first attempt to awaken the public mind to the question of suffrage for women was a lecture in Platt's Hall by Mrs. Laura de Force Gordon, February 19, 1868. The attendance seems to have been small, composed of a few earnest women who formed the nucleus of what followed. Soon after we hear of Mrs. Gordon at Sacramento, addressing the Legislature and eloquently appealing to its members to grant political rights to women.

In the following summer Anna Dickinson gave lectures, she being a noted speaker, with heart and soul in the work of suffrage. At this time, Mrs. Emily Pitt Gleason secured an interest in the San Francisco Mercury, and was gradually educating her readers up to a degree of liberality to endorse woman suffrage. Then Mrs. Elizabeth D. Schenck, with Mrs. Stevens and a few other women, organized a suffrage society, and a convention was held in Platt's Hall, January 26, 1870. The State Suffrage Association held its first meeting in Dinkens' Hall. Other speeches were made in va-

secured to women, Mrs. Gordon drafted a clause which protoda women in all lawful vocations, and succeeded in getting it inserted in the new Constitution as follows:

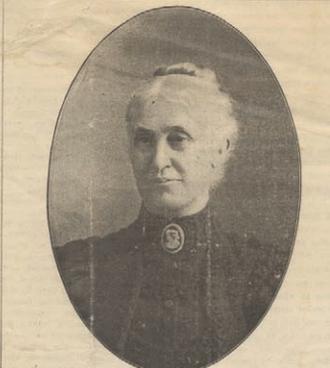
"Article XX, Section 18. No person shall, on account of sex, be disqualified from entering upon or pursuing any lawful business, vocation or profession."

In the spring of 1855 the first Suffrage Association of Southern California was organized in Los Angeles. The principal work of this Suffrage Society was educational. Its first President was Mrs. Elizabeth A. Kingway, a lecturer and writer of ability and a co-worker with Eastern suffragists. She was succeeded by Mrs. Margaret V. Langley, another pioneer worker, and Mrs. Alice Moore McComas, known throughout the State for her ability and work for the suffrage cause.

An unrelenting agitation has since been kept up throughout Southern California, and a strong sentiment has been created in favor of woman suffrage. In San Diego the work was led by Mrs. Flora M. Kimball, who was the first woman ever elected Mayor of a Grange, and for eight years a member of the San Diego School Board. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union and the Southern California Federation of Women's Clubs, with perhaps all or most other worthy organizations of the south, did efficient and helpful work.

In July, 1871, California was favored by a visit from Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Miss Susan B. Anthony. New interest was awakened wherever their eloquent and logical appeals were heard. In the early part of that year Mrs. and Mrs. A. A. Sargent returned to California from Washington, D. C., where they were representative living ex-

posed speaker for the Republican party. In May, 1896, Miss Susan B. Anthony and Rev. Anna H. Shaw, President and Vice-President of the National Association, arrived in San Francisco in response to a cordial invitation to that has been made for helping women's meetings ever held were more beautiful than this. Their presence, presided over by Mrs. Sarah B. Coover. The



MRS. MARY S. SPERRY,
President California Equal Suffrage Association.

work for many years and a prominent speaker for the Republican party. In May, 1896, Miss Susan B. Anthony and Rev. Anna H. Shaw, President and Vice-President of the National Association, arrived in San Francisco in response to a cordial invitation to that has been made for helping women's meetings ever held were more beautiful than this. Their presence, presided over by Mrs. Sarah B. Coover. The

REASONS WHY WOMEN SHOULD HAVE A VOTE

By KATHARINE REED VALENTINE

"That 'all men are created equal' is a statement which admits of more or less oratorical juggling, while with the sincere it always requires some explaining. Obviously all men are not created equal and their opportunities certainly are not equal. It has been construed to mean that all men, however unequally created, have an equal right to employ their mental opportunities perhaps that is all it can mean.

But let us pass to the next sentence in the familiar document just quoted. Here there can be no obscurity. To secure the rights of man, 'government' are instituted among men, deriving their just power from the consent of the governed." This last phrase admits of no juggling and needs no explaining. It can and ought to be taken literally, in it is condensed the whole philosophy of free government:

1. That the liberators of mankind have lived and died for. It means that submission to the laws entitles everyone to a voice in the making of them. It was the desire and intention of the man who wrote it that this government should be founded, not upon the consent of an aristocracy, either of property, education or color, or sex, but upon the consent of the governed. Neither sex, nor color, nor education nor the possession of any stated amount of property has ever made any class great enough or good enough to govern another class without its consent. This is because none of these

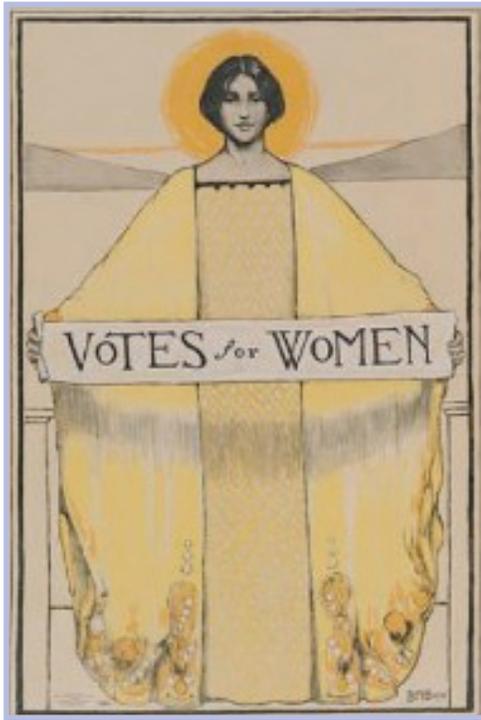
women in California, and to those of us who are familiar with the situation it would have been sufficient. But to those who have not made themselves familiar with the subject, we thought it best to give facts, that they may be better able to judge of the steady progress that has been made for helping women's meetings ever held were more beautiful than this. Their presence, presided over by Mrs. Sarah B. Coover. The

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March 3



Katherine Reed Balentine was a suffragist who published *The Yellow Ribbon*, a statewide suffrage newspaper from 1906-07, which was "[d]evoted to the interests of woman suffrage on the Pacific Coast."



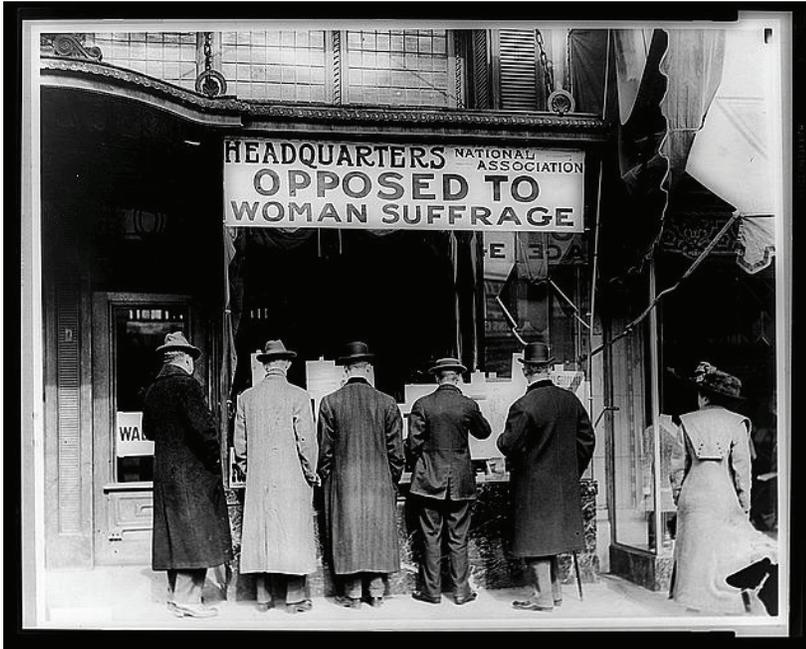
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March 4

Created by artist Bertha Margaret Boye for the 1911 California campaign for women's suffrage, this poster won first place in a San Francisco competition. This is arguably the most popular poster produced during the American suffrage movement.



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Many women as well as men opposed women's suffrage in the early 1900s. Among the groups in opposition were Liquor Dealers League, the Northern and Southern California Anti-Suffrage Associations, and prominent figures such as John Powell Irish and Gen. George S. Patton, Sr.

March

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6



First Women in Statewide Offices

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Ivy Baker Priest

I was State Treasurer (1967-75).

March Fong Eu

I was Secretary of State (1975-94).



Kathleen Connell

I was State Controller (1995-2003).

Delaine Eastin

*I was Superintendent of Public Instruction
(1995-2003).*



Kamala Harris

I am Attorney General (2011-)

March 7



PROPOSED BY SENATOR BELL,

JANUARY 6, 1911.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY.

SENATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT No. 8.

A RESOLUTION TO PROPOSE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION ONE OF ARTICLE TWO OF THE CON-
STITUTION IN RELATION TO THE RIGHTS OF SUFFRAGE.

The legislature of the State of California, at its regular
2 session commencing on the second day of January, nineteen
3 hundred and eleven, two thirds of the members elected to each
4 of the two houses of the said legislature voting in favor
5 thereof, hereby proposes that section one of article two of the
6 constitution of the State of California be amended so as to
7 read as follows:

Senator Bell introduced language on January 6, 1911, authored by lawyer Clara Foltz, to make it lawful for women in California to vote in all California elections. The Amendment passed the Legislature in February, and was on its way to the voters.

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Elizabeth Hughes

(1876-1941)

*I was elected in 1918 as Butte County's
first female legislator.*

*I was the first woman to chair a major
committee (Education).*

Anna Saylor

(1871-1956)

*I introduced legislation to allow
sisters to administer estates just as
brothers always could.*

*I also sponsored the bill that ended
the death penalty for those under 18.*



March

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March 10



Women's Clubs initially were places for women to gather, mainly for social or community building reasons, but were swept up in the rising tide of the suffrage movement. By the time Selina Solomons and Alice Park opened separate Votes for Women Clubs, the Clubs were clearly linked to the fight for the vote.



Maud Younger
(1870-1936)

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March 11

As a suffragist, union organizer, and master of publicity, I founded a working women's suffrage organization, and spoke and wrote tirelessly for the cause. As one of my ways of raising awareness for suffrage, I drove an award-winning float in the 1911 San Francisco Labor Day Parade.



Campaigning by Car



The Blue Liner was the name of a lovely convertible that drew attention wherever it went. It even became the speaking platform as suffragists went from town to town presenting their program of speeches and songs throughout California.

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March
12
13



More First Women Elected

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Orfa Jean Shontz

*I was the first woman elected to the
Board of Equalization (1935-38).*



Rose Bird

*I was the first female to be selected Chief Justice of the
California Supreme Court (1976-86).*

Doris Allen

*I was the first female to be elected Speaker
of the Assembly (1995).*



Gloria Romero

*I was the first female to be elected Senate Majority Leader
(2001-08).*

Karen Bass

*I was the first African-American female to be elected
Speaker of the Assembly (2008-10).*



March

14



Suffrage Wins: Oct. 10, 1911

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STATEMENT OF THE VOTE, OCTOBER 10, 1911.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

COUNTIES.	Senate Constitutional Amendment No. 8. Relating to the rights of suffrage. (Permitting women to vote.)	
	Yes.	No.
Alameda	10,627	12,802
Alpine	26	16
Amador	478	629
Butte	1,829	1,076
Calaveras	736	481
Colusa	438	427
Contra Costa	1,569	1,548
Del Norte	305	198
El Dorado	601	389
Fresno	3,192	2,518
Glenn	614	367
Humboldt	1,815	1,061
Imperial	619	310
Inyo	400	230
Kern	1,760	1,697
Kings	708	531
Lake	471	341
Lassen	339	196
Los Angeles	27,891	22,238

March 15



On October 10, 1911, Amendment 8 on the Rights of Suffrage passed by the statewide vote of 125,037 in favor and 121,450 opposed.

Rose Ann Vuich

(1927-2001)



I was the first woman elected to the Senate in California. I held my seat from 1977-93.

I was known for my honesty and sharp mind when reviewing proposed legislation.

I also became famous for ringing a cowbell every time fellow Senators addressed only the gentlemen of the Senate, ignoring the fact that there was a woman present.

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March

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Charlotta Spears Bass

(1874-1969)



I published pro-suffrage editorials from Los Angeles in the state's largest African-American newspaper, the California Eagle, which I worked on in 1911 and published from 1912 to 1951.

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March 17





*Selina
Solomons*
(1862-1942)

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**March
18**

I am best known for my book, How We Won the Vote in California, as it is the only firsthand account of the California suffrage campaign of 1911. I also opened the Votes for Women Club in San Francisco, where shopgirls could get lunch or afternoon tea and read suffrage literature.



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SUFFRAGE CAMPAIGN SONG FOR CALIFORNIA

There are five a-light before us,
In the flag flying o'er us,
There'll be six on next election—
We bring a new star!
We are coming like the others,
Free Sisters, Free Brothers,
In the pride of our affection
For California.

CHORUS: A ballot for the Lady!
For the Home and for the Baby!
Come, vote ye for the Lady,
The Baby, the Home!

Sung to the Tune of "Buy A Broom"

Star of Hope and Star of Beauty!
Of Freedom! Of Duty!
Star of childhood's new protection,
That rises so high!
We will work for it together
In the golden, gay weather,
And we'll have it next election,
Or we will know why.

CHORUS: A ballot for the Lady!
For the Home and for the Baby!
Come, vote ye for the Lady,
The Baby, the Home!

*Suffragists made a flag and affixed a star for the five suffrage
victories in other states before 1911. California suffragists sang
songs about their campaign for the sixth star, which was affixed to
the flag after their victory.*

March
19
20



Women Who Fought for Civil Rights

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Tarea Hall Pittman
(1903-1991)

*I was a long-time civil rights activist and the
NAACP's first west coast Regional Director.*



Michi Weglyn (1926-1999)

*I was a famous author and an activist for
Japanese-American citizens interned in
camps during WWII.*



Dolores Huerta
(1930-)

*I co-founded the United Farm Workers
union in 1962 and am an activist for
farmworkers' and women's rights.*



March

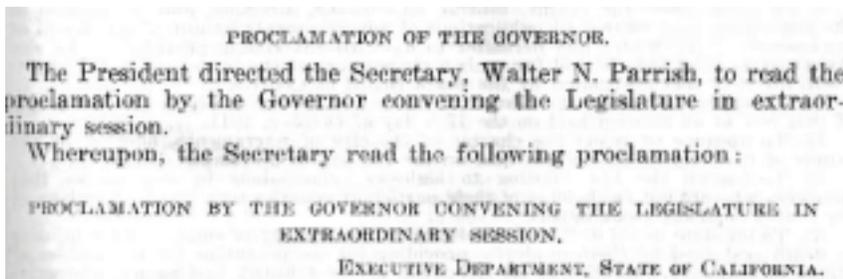
21



Many suffrage women fought for voting rights at the turn of the century in California, but the fight for civil rights has a long history and continues today. Above are a few California women fighters who made a difference.

Governor's Proclamation

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March

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3. To enact such modifications of and additions to the election laws of the State of California as may be deemed necessary or expedient to carry out with facility, and effectually and fully, the right of suffrage granted to women by Senate Constitutional Amendment No. 8, adopted by the people October 10, 1911, by which Section 1 of Article II of the Constitution of the State of California was amended; to enact all necessary laws in relation to elections and to registration of electors; to amend the direct primary law of the State of California; and to provide for and to create the office of registrar of voters in the counties where said office is not now provided for or created by law.

On November 27, 1911, Governor Hiram Johnson issued a proclamation to, among other things, "carry out with facility and effectually and fully the right of suffrage granted to women."



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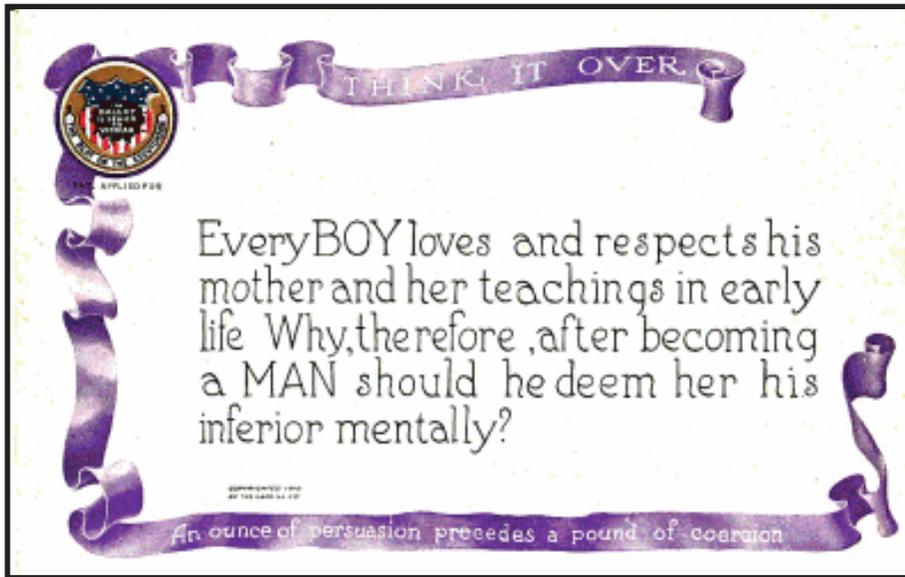


Louise LaRue was a Waitress Union organizer who helped found the Wage Earners' Equal Suffrage League with Maud Younger. She was also one of the few working women's champions who supported suffrage for all races.

March 23



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To help spread the suffragist movement campaign and raise money for the cause, postcards like this were sold.

**March
24**



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**March
25**

President of the Friday Morning Club of Los Angeles (pictured above), Josepha Tolhurst was also one of the framers of the Charter of Los Angeles. She was a prominent suffragist and progressive speaker who lobbied strongly for suffrage in a speech before the Senate just before they voted to pass the amendment.



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*Gathering delegates
and members from
women's clubs,
unions, and other
pro-suffrage groups,
organizations pooled
funds, workers,
resources and
volunteers to muster
campaign efforts all
over California.*

March
26 / **27**



Alice Park

(1861-1945)



I started my suffrage career in California, but went all over the United States and other countries to fight for it as well. After women's suffrage was approved nationally, I wrote the law granting women equal rights of guardianship of their own children.

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March
28



Suffrage Publicity



VOTES for WOMEN
Don't Fail to Vote YES
on the SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT
on OCTOBER 10

2. A
am.
and
1911
California
amendment to
the qualified voter.

3. Senate Constitutional An.
of the people of the State of Calif.
of the state, providing two
sessions of the Legislature, providing
thereof and limiting the introduction of it,
same after such point.

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Senate Constitutional Amendment No. 8. A resolution to propose to
the people of the State of California an amendment to section one of
article two of the constitution in relation to the right of suffrage.
(Permitting women to vote.)

**Give the Women of California
a Square Deal**
They Want the Ballot

WHY? BECAUSE

- Those who obey laws should have something to say as to their making.
- Those who pay taxes to support government should be represented in the government.
- Those who have charge of the home and the children must be able to protect them.

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**March
29**



Suffragists created many items to help get the word out on their suffrage campaign. They authored various broadsides and editorial images; they also made buttons, banners and even envelopes to sell and publicize the suffrage cause.



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**March
30**

Immediately after their victory at the polls, California women began to register to vote in campaigns by the Women's Progressive League and others. In the May 1912 election, a higher percentage of eligible women voted than men.



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On May 14, 1912, California women cast their first ballots in the national presidential primary just seven months after the passing of the suffrage amendment.

**March
31**



Day	Citation	Photo credit
0	Statement of the Vote, November 3, 1896, by Secretary of State	Government Publications, California State Library
1	<u>The Lady Lawyer</u> by Sharon Avey, etc.	University of California Hastings Library
2	Research material for book on California's First Women Legislators compiled by Ethyl Bornefeld	California Legislative Women's Caucus
3	Various materials from the California State Library	California History Room, California State Library
4	California Legislative Women's Caucus	Poster image courtesy of The Schlessinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University
5	<u>Becoming Citizens</u> by Gayle Gullett	Library of Congress
7	California Roster, Secretary of State, various dates	UCLA Charles E. Young Research Library Department of Special Collections, LA Times Photographic Archives, California Secretary of State's Office, California Attorney General's Office, Gift from Ms. Eastin, Gift from Ms. Connell
8	1911 Compilation of Bills, by Witkin State Law Library, California State Library	California State Library
9	Research material for book on California's First Women Legislators compiled by Ethyl Bornefeld	California Legislative Women's Caucus

Day	Citation	Photo credit
10	<u>How We Won the Vote in California</u> , by Selina Solomons	California History Room, California State Library
11	<u>Becoming Citizens</u> by Gayle Gullett	Library of Congress
12	<u>California Women: A Guide to Their Politics</u> by Reda Davis	Library of Congress
14	California Roster, Secretary of State, various dates	California Assembly Chief Clerk, California Assembly Chief Clerk, California Legislative Women's Caucus, California Assembly Chief Clerk, <u>U.S. House of Representatives</u>
15	Statement of the Vote, October 10, 1911, Secretary of State	Government Publications, California State Library
16	Legislative Women's Caucus web site	California Legislative Women's Caucus
17	Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research web site	Los Angeles Public Library
18	<u>Soup, Salad, Suffrage: How Women Won Their Right to Vote in California</u> by Elaine Ellison	San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library
19	<u>California Women: A Guide to their Politics</u> by Reda Davis	<u>Suffrage Songs and Verses</u> by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Day	Citation	Photo credit
21	http://www.lasculturas.com/aa/bio/bioDoloresHuerta.htm , www.michiweglyn.com/biography-2 , Tarea Hall Pittman Papers, California State Library	Photo courtesy of The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, http://www.michiweglyn.com , photo courtesy of Eric Guo
22	Journal of the Senate, 1911, California State Senate	Witkin State Law Library, California State Library
23	<u>Becoming Citizens</u> by Gayle Gullett	Huntington Library
24	<u>How We Won the Vote in California</u> by Selina Solomons	Photo courtesy of Ms. Magazine
25	<u>Becoming Citizens</u> by Gayle Gullett	USC Digital Archive
26	<u>Becoming Citizens</u> by Gayle Gullett	California Historical Society
28	<u>Alice Park of California, Worker for Woman Suffrage and for Children's Rights</u> by Una R. Winter	California History Room, California State Library
29	<u>How We Won the Vote in California</u> by Selina Solomons	California History Room, California State Library
30	<u>The Rise of Political Woman in the Election of 1912</u> by Jo Freeman	California History Room, California State Library
31	<u>The Rise of Political Woman in the Election of 1912</u> by Jo Freeman	California History Room, California State Library