March 2011
Women’s History Calendar

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of California Women’s Suffrage

Produced by
The California Research Bureau,
California State Library
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

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.
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.

Grace Dorris  
(1887-1968)  
I was the first woman to introduce a bill in California.  
I introduced legislation to pay for public defenders.
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.”
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.
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.
First Women in Statewide Offices

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-).
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
More First Women Elected

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).
Suffrage Wins: Oct. 10, 1911

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.
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.
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.
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!

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!

Sung to the Tune of “Buy A Broom”

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.
Women Who Fought for Civil Rights

**Tarea Hall Pittman**  
(1903-1991)

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

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**Michi Weglyn** (1926-1999)

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

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**Dolores Huerta**  
(1930- )

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

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.
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.”
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.
EveryBOY loves and respects his mother and her teachings in early life. Why, therefore, after becoming a MAN, should he deem her his inferior mentally?

An ounce of persuasion precedes a pound of coercion.

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

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.
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.
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.
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