

FIRST LADY'S MESSAGE

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMMENDENT

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“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”

- 19th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution Certified August 26, 1920

A woman's rights convention was held in Seneca Falls, NY in 1848 and became widely noted as the beginning of the woman's suffrage movement. It was there that Elizabeth Cady Stanton presented a ground-breaking treatise. The “Declaration of Sentiments and Grievances,” written by Stanton and suffragist Matilda Joslyn Gage.

“We are not asking for a new right. We are asking for the restitution of a right that our foremothers had.”

Stanton and the suffragists knew that women had voted in the colonies. It was a right taken from women after the Revolution. Going back 1000 years, women of the 6 nations of the Iroquois Confederacy had a political voice. These women controlled the economy in ways in which they were the deciding factor in situations of war and peace.

Drawing upon that model allowed Stanton and the suffragists to really dream of the possibility of not just equality, not just of the vote, but of a transformed world. Women in the suffragette movement were working for their rights and for legal existence. Once a woman married, they were considered dead in the law with no rights. Stanton called for a transformational society, calling for an end to capital punishment and corporal punishment. She was reviled for talking about a woman's right to have a divorce. She was a Progressive of her time.

Women in the labor force now hold more college degrees than men in the U.S. [analysis 2019 by Pew Research] Yet, men earn more money than women in every U.S. industry.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of woman's suffrage. What does it mean to you?

Woman now represent the majority of voters [51%] in the U.S. Women are the most powerful force in this country. We needn't be afraid to come together and understand the power that we have if we show up and vote for and during all elections. Then WE can decide how WE want to operate in the world. WE can decide who WE want to put into positions to fight for our rights and to face all the injustices put upon US.

As a mother of 2 daughters, I am speaking to all women whether you are a daughter, mother, or grandmother. It is time for us to consider our woman's future.

We need to be a society in which everyone is respected, appreciated, and shows humility and empathy toward their fellow person. Therefore, I am asking all of you women to not be Silenced, but instead to have your voice heard by utilizing a very precious right: the **right to vote**. Regardless of what party you are registered to, whether it is Independent, Republican or Democrat, it is important that you all take the opportunity this country has bestowed on us and go cast your vote by mail or in person. Please, use the power that you hold in your hands. How you vote is a personal decision; what is important is that you let your voice be heard.

VOTE Nov. 3, 2020 – **“Its Ladies Night” [Kool and the Gang]**