

1789 U.S. Constitution is ratified. The terms "persons," "people" and "electors" allow for the interpretation of those beings to include men and women

1839 Mississippi becomes the first state to grant women the right to hold property in their own names

1840 Catherine Brewer becomes the first woman to receive a bachelor's degree

1848 First Women's Rights Convention is held in Seneca Falls, N.Y., to sign in the Declaration of Sentiments



Elizabeth Blackwell
becomes the first woman to receive a medical degree

1869 The first women's suffrage law is passed in Wyoming

1872 Susan B. Anthony is arrested for trying to vote

1872 Victoria Claflin Woodhull is the first woman to run as a presidential candidate

1890 Wyoming becomes the first state to grant women the right to vote in all elections

1913 5,000 suffragists march in Washington, D.C.

1916 Jeannette Rankin of Montana becomes the first woman elected to Congress

1920 The 19th Amendment gives women the right to vote

1932 Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean

1933



Frances Perkins is appointed secretary of labor by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, making her the first woman member of a presidential Cabinet

1934 Coca-Cola's Lettie Pate Whitehead is the first American woman to serve as director of a major corporation

1938 The Fair Labor Standards Act establishes minimum wage without regard to gender

1955 The first lesbian organization in the United States, the Daughters of Bilitis, is founded

1963 The Equal Pay Act is passed by Congress

1964 Title VII of the Civil Rights Act prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or sex

1965 Restrictive labor laws are repealed on the hours and conditions of women's work, opening many previously men-only jobs to women

1966 The National Organization for Women (NOW) is founded by Betty Friedan

1967 Muriel Siebert is the first woman to own a seat on the New York Stock Exchange

1972 Title IX bans sex discrimination in schools

1972 Katherine Graham of *The Washington Post* becomes first woman CEO of a Fortune 500 company

1974 Congress prohibits housing discrimination against women

1976 The Supreme Court upholds women's right to unemployment benefits during last three months of pregnancy

1977 Juanita Kreps is the first female secretary of commerce

1978 *Kirchberg v. Feenstra* overturns state laws designating a husband "head and master"

1979 More than half of all women 16 years and older are in paid employment



Sandra Day O'Connor
becomes first woman appointed to the Supreme Court

1982 This is the first year more women than men graduated with bachelor's degrees

1984 Sex discrimination in membership policies is forbidden by the Supreme Court

1984 Geraldine Ferraro becomes the first female vice-presidential candidate representing a major American political party

1987 Congress proclaims March as National Women's History Month

1990 Dr. Antonia Novello becomes the first woman (and first Latino) U.S. surgeon general



1992 The Family and Medical Leave Act goes into effect

1993 Janet Reno becomes the first woman U.S. attorney general

1994 Congress adopts the Gender Equity in Education Act to train teachers in gender equity

1997 Madeleine K. Albright becomes the first woman U.S. secretary of state

1997 PricewaterhouseCoopers' Marsha Cohen is the first woman CFO at the top accounting firms

1998 The Supreme Court rules that employers are liable for sexual harassment



Lt. Col. Eileen Collins

becomes the first woman astronaut to command a space-shuttle mission

1999 The first woman, Nancy Ruth Mace, graduates at the Citadel

2005 Condoleezza Rice becomes the first Black female secretary of state

2007 Nancy Pelosi becomes the first woman speaker of the House

2008 Hillary Clinton is the only first lady to run for president



2009

Sonia Sotomayor
becomes the first Latino appointed to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court

Source: Catalyst, National Women's History Project