

POSTAL NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Aug. 21, 2020

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19th Amendment: Women Vote Stamp **Commemorates Historic Suffrage Movement**

WASHINGTON, DC — A new stamp issued by the U.S. Postal Service, 19th Amendment: Women Vote, commemorates the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing women the right to vote. The stamp honors the suffrage movement and the people who carried it through to fruition.

The stamp will be available nationwide Aug. 22. A virtual dedication ceremony, part of the Women's Rights National Historical Park Equality Weekend, will be posted on the Postal Service's Facebook and Twitter pages.

"For more than 70 years, suffragettes across the nation marched and rallied for their audacious cause: affording women the right to vote," said Chief Commerce and Business Solutions Officer Jacqueline Krage Strako, dedicating official for the Postal Service. "This stamp commemorates their perseverance in securing this unalienable right for themselves and future generations."

In 1848, the U.S. women's suffrage movement coalesced in Seneca Falls, NY, where 300 women and men gathered for a two-day women's rights convention. Their call for women's suffrage spread across the country in the decades that followed. Supporters of the movement quickly discovered change would be frustratingly slow.

On Jan. 10, 1918, the House of Representatives approved a constitutional amendment granting women the right to vote. The amendment was introduced in the Senate that September, and President Woodrow Wilson gave a rousing speech in support of it. But the Senate failed to pass the amendment. Suffragists continued their public protests until Wilson called for a special session of Congress.

The amendment finally passed in the House in May 1919 and in the Senate in June 1919. The tremendously difficult process of ratification, which requires three-quarters of all states (36 of 48 states at the time), took another year.

The 19th Amendment was added to the Constitution on Aug. 26, 1920.

Inspired by historic photographs, the stamp art features a stylized illustration of suffragists marching in a parade or other public demonstration. The clothes they wear and the banners they bear display the official colors of the National Woman's Party — purple, white and gold.

Designed by art director Ethel Kessler using art by Nancy Stahl, the stamp includes the words "Women Vote" and "19th Amendment" in shades of purple beneath the image. "Forever" and "USA" appear along the stamp's bottom edge.

News of the stamp is being shared with hashtags #WomenVoteStamps and #19thAmendmentStamps.

Postal Products

Customers may purchase stamps and other philatelic products through the Postal Store at <u>usps.com/shopstamps</u>, by calling 800-STAMP24 (800-782-6724), by mail through <u>USA Philatelic</u>, or at Post Office locations nationwide.

Information on ordering first-day-of-issue postmarks and covers is at <u>usps.com/shop</u>.

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

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