July 1848: The Seneca Falls Convention, the first women’s rights convention in the U.S., is held.

Feb. 1890: The National American Woman Suffrage Association is formed.

April 1917: Jeannette Rankin is sworn in as the first woman elected to Congress as a member of the House of Representatives.

Aug. 1920: The passage of the 19th Amendment gives white and Black women the right to vote under the Constitution. However, many Black women faced harassment, therefore preventing them from voting.

Aug. 2009: Sonia Sotomayor is sworn in as the first woman of color to serve in the Supreme Court.

March 1955: 15-year-old Claudette Colvin refuses to give up her seat on a bus for a white person. Nine months later, Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on an Alabama bus.

March 1972: The Equal Rights Amendment fails to be ratified, as it needed the support of ¾ of all 50 states. The amendment was first sent to Congress in 1923. It still has yet to be ratified.

June 1965: In Griswold v. Connecticut, the Supreme Court rules birth control should be legal for married women.

Aug. 1965: The Voting Rights Act, which enacted provisions aimed at helping African Americans and Native Americans overcome barriers to voting such as literacy tests, is signed into law.

March 1993: President Bill Clinton signs the Defense of Marriage Act into law. DOMA defined marriage as only between a man and a woman for purposes of federal law. It also made it so no state would have to recognize a same-gender marriage if the union was held in a different state.

Aug. 2010: Sonia Sotomayor is sworn in as the first woman of color to serve in the Supreme Court.

Jan. 2013: Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) is sworn in as the first openly gay U.S. senator in history.

Jan. 2018: Danica Roem (D-Va.) is sworn in as the first female vice president of the U.S. Also in January, President Joe Biden lifts the trans military ban enacted by the Trump administration, which was implemented in April 2019.

Jan. 2021: Kamala Harris becomes the first female vice president of the U.S.

Aug. 1920: The 19th Amendment is signed.