

# PROGRESS & REGRESSION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS

In 1932, Amelia Earhart was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean and the first person to ever fly from Hawaii to the U.S. mainland alone in 1935.

**July 1848:**

The Seneca Falls Convention, the first women's rights convention in the U.S., is held.

**Dec. 1869:**

The territory of Wyoming grants women the right to vote and hold political office. Wyoming gained statehood in 1890, becoming the first state where women could vote.

**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

**1935:**

All Puerto Rican women are granted the right to vote. Only literate Puerto Rican women could vote beginning in 1929.

**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.

**1962:**

Utah becomes the last state to guarantee full voting rights for Native Americans.

**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.

**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 1972:**

The Equal Rights Amendment fails to be ratified, as it needed support of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all 50 states. The amendment was first sent to Congress in 1923. It still has yet to be ratified.

**June 1972:**

Then-President Richard Nixon signs Title IX. Under Title IX, schools that receive federal funding may not discriminate "on the basis of sex" and must establish clear procedures for handling instances of sexual violence.

**Jan. 1973:**

In *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court finds women have a constitutional right to abortion.

**1993:**

All states have now withdrawn the "marital rape exception."

**Oct. 1993:**

Then-President Bill Clinton signs "Don't Ask Don't Tell" into law. It was repealed in September 2011.

**Sept. 1996:**

Then-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. 2009:**

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.

**June 2015:**

Just as Pride Month comes to a close, the Supreme Court rules same-sex marriage is a legal right in all states.

**July 2015:**

The Pentagon announced the lifting of the trans military ban.

**Dec. 2015:**

The military begins letting women serve in front-line combat roles, even though they were allowed to serve under the 1948 Women's Armed Services Integration Act.

**July 2016:**

Hillary Clinton is nominated as the Democratic nominee for president. She is the first woman nominated for president by a major political party.

**Jan. 2017:**

Women's March is the largest single-day protest in U.S. history, happening on Donald Trump's Inauguration Day.

**Oct. 2017:**

Actress Alyssa Milano mentions "Me Too" in a tweet, which quickly goes viral even though activist Tarana Burke first coined the term in 2006.

**Jan. 2018:**

Danica Roem (D-Va.) is sworn in as the first openly trans state legislator.

**Jan. 2021:**

Kamala Harris becomes 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.

DOMA was signed just months after the *Romer v. Evans* decision, in which the Supreme Court ruled it's unconstitutional for states to deny gay, lesbian and bisexual people discrimination protection.

Literacy tests, threats, violence, poll taxes and other forms of voter suppression made it so just because some were legally granted the right to vote, they could not always make it to the polls.

Many states still differentiate between marital rape and non-marital rape, which not only makes cases of marital rape harder to prosecute, but also imposes lesser sentences on those who rape their spouse.