

Arizona Women's Suffrage Timeline

Arizona Women's History Alliance

*The federal government did not grant citizenship rights to all Native Americans until the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924. As a result, even though the 19th amendment to the US Constitution gave women the right to vote, this did not include any Native Americans. Discrepancies between federal and state control provided loopholes in the enforcement of the Native American Citizenship Act, including the rights of Indians to vote. Arizona and New Mexico were the last two states to allow them to vote, but this did not happen until 1948.

- 1883 Territorial legislator Murat Masterson (Yavapai County) introduced a women's suffrage bill in the legislature. The bill was defeated 7 votes to 3. The legislature passed a bill allowing women to vote in school elections.

- 1884 Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) organized in Arizona

- 1885 Territorial legislator H. K. Wardell (Cochise County) introduced a women's suffrage bill in the legislature. The bill was defeated.

- 1890 Josephine Brawley Hughes resigned as President of the WCTU and directed her efforts toward women's suffrage.

- 1891 Josephine Brawley Hughes (Tucson) started the first Arizona Suffrage organization and worked with the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), a group of predominately white women from elite backgrounds, to establish suffrage clubs in every Arizona county. Hughes had led an intense campaign against the Mormons through her husband's newspaper, the *Arizona Star* in the 1880s because of polygamy. She refused to work with Mormons even though they strongly supported women's suffrage.

- 1891 Josephine Brawley Hughes and Laura M. Johns (NAWSA field organizer) addressed the Arizona Constitutional Convention. Suffrage was defeated 16 votes to 5.

- 1893 Josephine Brawley Hughes worked with several legislative members to get a suffrage bill introduced. Her approach was to appeal for suffrage politely. Bill defeated in committee.

- 1895 Josephine Brawley Hughes worked with several legislators to get a suffrage bill introduced. Again, her approach was to appeal for suffrage politely, stating that if women got the vote they would clean up government. The bill was defeated in committee.

- 1896 Josephine Brawley Hughes spoke in Philadelphia at the annual Convention of the NAWSA. Susan B. Anthony pledged support for Arizona women's suffrage.

- 1896 Josephine Brawley Hughes and Laura M. Johns (NAWSA field organizer) traveled around the Territory speaking and organizing suffrage clubs. These clubs did not include Mormons or Mexican-Americans.
- 1897 Josephine Brawley Hughes worked with several legislative members to get a suffrage bill introduced. Again, her approach was to appeal for suffrage politely, stating that if women got the vote they would clean up government. Bill was defeated in committee.
- 1899 Josephine Brawley Hughes resigned as the President of Arizona's suffrage organization. NAWSA suffrage leader Carrie Chapman Catt and Mary Hay arrived in Arizona. With Arizona's Pauline O'Neill and Frances W. Munds they traveled throughout the Territory, organized suffrage clubs in 12 of Arizona's 14 counties and spoke at meetings and outdoor rallies.
- 1899 Pauline O'Neill (widow of Rough Rider Bucky O'Neill) became President of the Arizona Territorial Woman's Suffrage Association. Frances Willard Munds was elected Secretary. Under their leadership, the suffragists began an aggressive campaign to give women the right to vote. They organized the first statewide suffrage convention.
- 1899 Frances Willard Munds and NAWSA's Mary Hay lobbied legislators for a women's suffrage amendment to the territorial constitution. The bill passed the House, but was filibustered in the Council (Senate) and did not come to a vote.
- 1901 Lida Robinson, president of the Phoenix suffrage club, became president of the territorial suffrage association. She wrote and published a newsletter that she mailed out to supporters of women's suffrage. Pauline O'Neill worked as the suffrage association's legislative coordinator.
- 1903 Lida Robinson, Pauline O'Neill, Frances Willard Munds and Frances Woods organized the third territorial suffrage convention. Twenty-four delegates attended from around the state.
- 1903 Lida Robinson, Pauline O'Neill and Frances Willard Munds lobbied legislators to get a suffrage bill introduced. Robinson, O'Neill, Munds and Hattie Talbot worked with labor leader Mr. T. J. Morrison to force the suffrage legislation to a vote to make sure that no bills in the House could move forward until legislators voted on the suffrage bill. For the first time in the Arizona suffrage movement, the bill passed in the House and Council (Senate). The bill was vetoed by Governor Alexander Brodie.
- 1909 Anna Howard Shaw, head of the NAWSA, sent NAWSA field worker Laura Clay to Arizona to work with Frances Willard Munds to revive Arizona's efforts for women's suffrage. Munds and Clay established suffrage clubs throughout the territory. At the territorial suffrage convention members elected Frances Willard Munds President of the new Arizona Equal Suffrage Association.

- 1909 Based on her previous experiences, Frances Munds understood that only a few incumbent politicians would support suffrage. She changed the direction of Arizona's suffrage campaign by appealing to male voters instead of legislators. She was a consummate strategist and under her leadership, Arizona suffragists created a powerful coalition supporting woman suffrage made up of miners, labor leaders, farmers, ranchers, Mormons, Democrats, and Republicans.
- 1909 Arizona suffragists met with prominent members of the Mexican American business and political community, held meetings in their homes and published suffrage material in Spanish.
- 1909 Laura Clay, NAWSA field worker, who had encouraged racial policies to exclude African American women from voting in two southern suffrage campaigns, persuaded Arizona suffragists to exclude non-English speaking Mexican American workers from the Arizona suffrage movement. Arizona suffragists' actions reflected a common western prejudice against the average Mexican worker in that they believed they were illiterate, did not understand the issues around suffrage and would vote against it.
- 1909 In 1909 the Arizona Equal Suffrage Association, labor unions and the Democratic Party supported a bill in the predominantly white legislature to require an English literacy test in order to be able to vote, effectively eliminating many potential Mexican voters and other immigrants.
- 1909 Laura Gregg, NAWSA field worker, spent the winter months of 1909-1910 touring the territory to gain support for women's suffrage.
- 1910 Arizona's population was 204,354. Of those, there were 2,009 African Americans who made up 1% of Arizona's residents; 1,306 Chinese at 0.6% of the population; 371 Japanese at 0.2 %; 57,102 Mexicans (29,402 born outside the US) or 25% of the population. Except for members of the Mexican business and political community, Arizona suffragists did not include these other groups, including the majority of Mexicans, in their outreach efforts.
- 1910 Frances Willard Munds coupled the move toward statehood with women's suffrage. She and Laura Gregg (NAWSA field worker) attended the territorial Labor Party meeting and asked members to include an equal suffrage plank if they were elected to participate in Arizona's upcoming Constitutional Convention.
- 1910 Arizona suffragists sent petitions and speakers to the Constitutional Convention. On November 2nd Frances Willard Munds was allowed to speak before the Elections Committee as were Katherine Hopkins, Dr. Agnes Wallace and Pauline O'Neill. Constitutional delegates rejected the suffrage plank by a vote of 30 to 19.

- 1912 Arizona became a state on February 14, 1912. In the first legislative session after Arizona achieved statehood, Senator John Hughes (Tucson), son of Josephine Brawley Hughes, submitted a referendum to add a suffrage amendment to the Arizona Constitution. The bill passed in the House and was defeated by one vote in the Senate. Nearly 500 women packed the council chambers for the final vote.
- 1912 The Arizona legislature passed a bill requiring an English literacy test in order to vote. This resulted in an estimated 30% decrease in eligible Mexican American voters and reduced them to approximately 13% of all eligible voters.
- 1912 Frances Willard Munds distributed suffrage initiative petitions and led the efforts to obtain the required 3,342 signatures of male voters to get the suffrage amendment on the November ballot. In spite of the excessive summer heat, suffrage supporters collected over 4,000 signatures by the July 5, 1912 deadline.
- 1912 In September 1912, Frances Willard Munds opened the state suffrage campaign headquarters in the Adams Hotel in Phoenix. She organized suffrage committees in each county. Alice Parks from the NAWSA arrived from California with suffrage literature. Munds and Parks launched a media campaign. Munds worked with newspaper editors, many of whose wives supported suffrage, to write articles and editorials in support of suffrage. Josephine Brawley Hughes wrote a suffrage editorial that was reprinted throughout the state.
- 1912 Laura Gregg Cannon and her husband, labor leader Joseph Cannon spoke in communities throughout the state. Members of county suffrage committees organized meetings, gave speeches and spoke to male voters in their communities to garner support for women's suffrage. Suffragist and Mexican American physician, Dr. Rosa G. Boida led Pima County suffrage efforts as President of the Equal Suffrage Committee of Pima County.
- 1912 The week before the November 5, 1912 election, Francis Willard Munds and supporters set up a booth at the first State Fair. Hundreds of ranchers, businessmen, farmers and miners from all over the state attended. The Suffragists spoke, handed out literature and suffrage campaign buttons.
- 1912 November 5, 1912 Frances Willard Munds and other suffragists passed out pro-suffrage handbills at voting sites throughout the state. When all the votes were counted, 68% of male voters supported the suffrage amendment—at that time, the largest popular vote for suffrage in the nation. Native Americans (men and women) did not get the vote in Arizona until 1948.

After Arizona Women Got the Vote (1913-20)

- 1913 In January, the State legislature passed an emergency law allowing Arizona women to register to vote.
- 1913 The Arizona Federation of Women's Clubs successfully lobbied the legislature to pass legislation for an 8 hour work day for women, for mother's pensions and for raising the age of sexual consent for females from 14 to 16 and for males to age 18.
- 1914 Frances Willard Munds (Yavapai County) and Rachel Berry (Apache County) both ran for seats in the State Legislature. Munds was elected the first female member of the state Senate in Arizona and Berry the first female member of the House.
- 1914 The Arizona Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) worked to register female votes. The WCTU and other organizations got sufficient signatures to place a prohibition initiative on the ballot. It won with 53% of the state's voters supporting it. In 1915 Arizona became a "dry state."
- 1915 African-American women in Phoenix organize the Arizona Federation of Colored Women's Clubs to educate voters on issues and candidates, fight racism and improve economic and educational opportunities in their communities.
- 1916 Rosa McKay (Cochise County), Theodora March (Santa Cruz County) and Pauline O'Neill (Maricopa County) were elected to the House.
- 1917 Rosa Lyons McKay, House member from Cochise County, introduced and successfully fought for first minimum wage bill for women. At that time, the average wage for a women in Arizona was between \$3 and \$6 per week. Her bill passed, bringing women's wages up to \$10 a week.
- 1918 Rosa McKay (Cochise County), Pauline O'Neill (Maricopa County), Nellie Hayward (Cochise County) and Anna Westover were elected to the House.
- 1919 Rosa McKay, House member from Cochise County introduced legislation to bring the wages of women up to \$12 a week. Her bill passed.
- 1920 Legislators Pauline O'Neill (Maricopa County), Nellie Hayward (Yuma County), Rosa Lyons McKay (Gila County) and Anna Westover (Yuma County) introduced House Joint Resolution #1 for Arizona's ratification of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution. The resolution passed unanimously in both houses.
- 1948 Frank Harrison and Harry Austin, WWII veterans and members of the Yavapai Tribe at Fort McDowell, sued the Maricopa County Recorder for refusing to allow them to register to vote. Judge Levi S. Udall who ruled in their favor wrote, "To deny the right to

vote, where one is legally entitled to do so, is to do violence to the principles of freedom and equality.”

Sources:

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David R. Berman. *Reformers, Corporations and the Electorate: an Analysis of Arizona's Age of Reform*. Niwot: University Press of Colorado, 1992.

Arizona State Archives, RG 99, SG 10 Women's Suffrage Collection

Arizona State Archives, RG 001, SG 005 Governor Alexander O. Brodie

Arizona State Archives, RG 002 Secretary of State

Arizona State Archives, RG 006, Secretary of the Territory

Arizona State Archives, RG025, George W. P. Hunt Collection

Arizona newspapers from the period