

2025 ★ WOMEN OF COLOR AND THE FIGHT FOR THE VOTE ★



VOTE FOR FANNIE LOU HAMER



BRING U.S. TOGETHER



VOTE CHISHOLM 1972 UNBOUGHT AND UNBOSSSED



KEY TO COVER IMAGES: From Top Left (clockwise): Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, Frances E.W. Harper, Zitkála-Šá, Mary McLeod Bethune, Mary Church Terrell, Founders of the National Association of Colored Women (NACW, 1896), Founders of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc® (1908), Founders of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc (1913), Nannie Helen Burroughs, Ida B. Wells in 1913 Suffrage Parade Soledad Chávez Chacón, Dr. Dorothy Height, NACW marching at The White House (1946), Women marching at the March on Washington (1963), Rep. Shirley Chisholm (1972), Fannie Lou Hamer, Sen. Carol Moseley Braun, and nominee for President Kamala Harris (center).

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Introduction

On August 22, 2024, Kamala Harris became the first Black woman and the first Asian-American woman to accept the nomination for President of the United States by a major party. Three and a half years earlier, when then Senator Harris was inaugurated as Vice President of the United States on January 21, 2021, she became the first woman of any race to win and hold this office. In her acceptance speech, she acknowledged “the generations of women, Black women, Asian, white, Latina, Native American women—who throughout our nation’s history have paved the way for this moment tonight—all the women who have worked to secure and protect the right to vote for over a century.”

This calendar is dedicated to all the women who have fought for the vote for all Americans. Its focus is on Black women and other women of color whose contributions led to the achievement of the vote but have not received the full recognition or the place in history that they deserve. Women who::

- From the 1830s, travel widely advocating for abolition, suffrage, and other causes using their voices as preachers and orators; writers, poets, and publishers; and educators.
- Organize—working through churches, clubs, and local groups; forming national organizations, like the National Association of Colored Women (NACW), and sororities; and fighting for social justice and civil rights for their communities.
- Take to the streets and protest publicly. NACW founder and first President Mary Church Terrell; the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; Ida B. Wells, founder of Chicago’s Alpha Suffrage Club; and other women of color march in the suffrage parade of 1913 in Washington, DC.
- Work in the Civil Rights Movement through churches and organizations such as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). Septima Clark, for example, worked with the SCLC to establish more than 800 citizenship education schools.
- Register to vote, vote, register others, serve as poll watchers, and work as electors (Dr. Thelma Daley, below).
- Run for office—and win.

This 2025 calendar illustrates this story through the lives of some of these sheroes, but it cannot begin to capture even a fraction of the women who write and speak, organize, march, protest, carry signs, make phone calls, tweet, knock on doors, write letters, register, vote, run for office, win, and represent all of us. It is thanks in no small part to the cumulative efforts all these women over nearly 200 years, that a record number of people (more than 159 million) voted in 2020 and elected a woman of color to the second highest office in the land and who has, in 2024, been nominated for the Presidency of the United States.



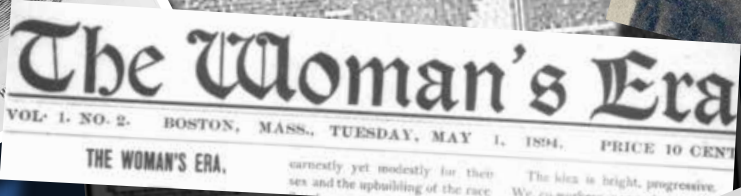


JANUARY 2025

Shirley Chisholm is the first Black woman in the House of Representatives and the first Black woman to run for a major party's nomination for President. A congresswoman for seven terms, Chisholm is emblematic of women on the local, state, and national levels, who not only spend their careers in public service but also seek and gain public office. An educator, activist, and writer, she is known for her speeches and wise quotes:

"At present, our country needs women's idealism and determination, perhaps more in politics than anywhere else."

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>"I may be the first woman member of Congress, but I won't be the last."</i> Rep. Jeanette Rankin, 1917</p> <p><i>"... while I may be the first woman in this office, I won't be the last."</i> Vice President Kamala Harris, 2020</p>			<p>1 New Year's Day</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>1918 Woman Suffrage Amendment passes House</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1913 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority founded</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>1908 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority founded</p>	<p>16</p> <p>1919 18th Amendment ratified prohibiting "intoxicating liquors" 1920 Zeta Phi Beta Sorority founded</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>20 Inauguration Day Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>1964 24th Amendment ratified abolishing poll taxes</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>1895 Phyllis Wheatley Club founded</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	



★ BLACK HISTORY MONTH ★

FEBRUARY 2025

From the 1830s, women of color preach, speak, and write on abolition, women's rights, and other issues. Maria Stewart is the first to speak to mixed audiences; (clockwise, from bottom) Jarena Lee preaches on the evils of slavery; Sojourner Truth is a noted speaker; Frances Harper is a poet, author, and orator; Mary Ann Shadd Cary (not shown) publishes *The Provincial Freeman*; Anna Julia Cooper pens *A Voice from the South*; Ida B. Wells writes and lectures on lynching; and Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin publishes *The Woman's Era* and issues "the Call," leading to the NACW. Building on the 19th century Black press, the NAACP's journal, *The Crisis* (below), covers woman's suffrage and the *Chicago Defender* chronicles *The Great Migration* (1920). Charlotta Bass is a passionate activist and journalist who publishes the *California Eagle* and, in 1952, is the first woman of color to run for Vice President.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				 <p><i>"If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again!"</i> Sojourner Truth</p> <p><i>"Win or lose, we win by raising the issues."</i> Charlotta Bass</p>		1
2	3 1870 15 th Amendment is ratified	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 1909 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People founded	13 1893 Ida B. Wells details horrors of lynching to white audience in Boston	14 Douglass Day	15
16	17 Presidents' Day	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 1922 Supreme Court upholds 19 th Amendment	28 Ramadan begins	



Wells-Barnett marching with other women suffragists in a parade in Washington, D.C., 1913

★ **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH** ★

MARCH 2025

On March 3, 1913, thousands of suffragists march down Pennsylvania Avenue protesting the exclusion of women from the political process. In spite of the concerns of white organizers about potential backlash, Black suffragists insist on marching. Ida B. Wells marches with the Illinois delegation (above). Delta Sigma Theta, in its first public act, Mary Church Terrell (below, left), members of Alpha Kappa Alpha and the NACW, and other Black women march with delegations of students, states, and professional groups. Organizers are more welcoming to other suffragists of color: Marie Louise Bottineau Baldwin (below, 2nd and 3rd from left) is asked to create a float for Native women in costume; she opts for modern dress and marches with fellow lawyers. Mabel Ping-Hua Lee (fourth from left) rides horseback in a 1912 New York parade and joins the 1913 parade on a Chinese float. Maria de Guadalupe Evangelina Lopez (not pictured) is asked to represent California; it is unknown if she attended.

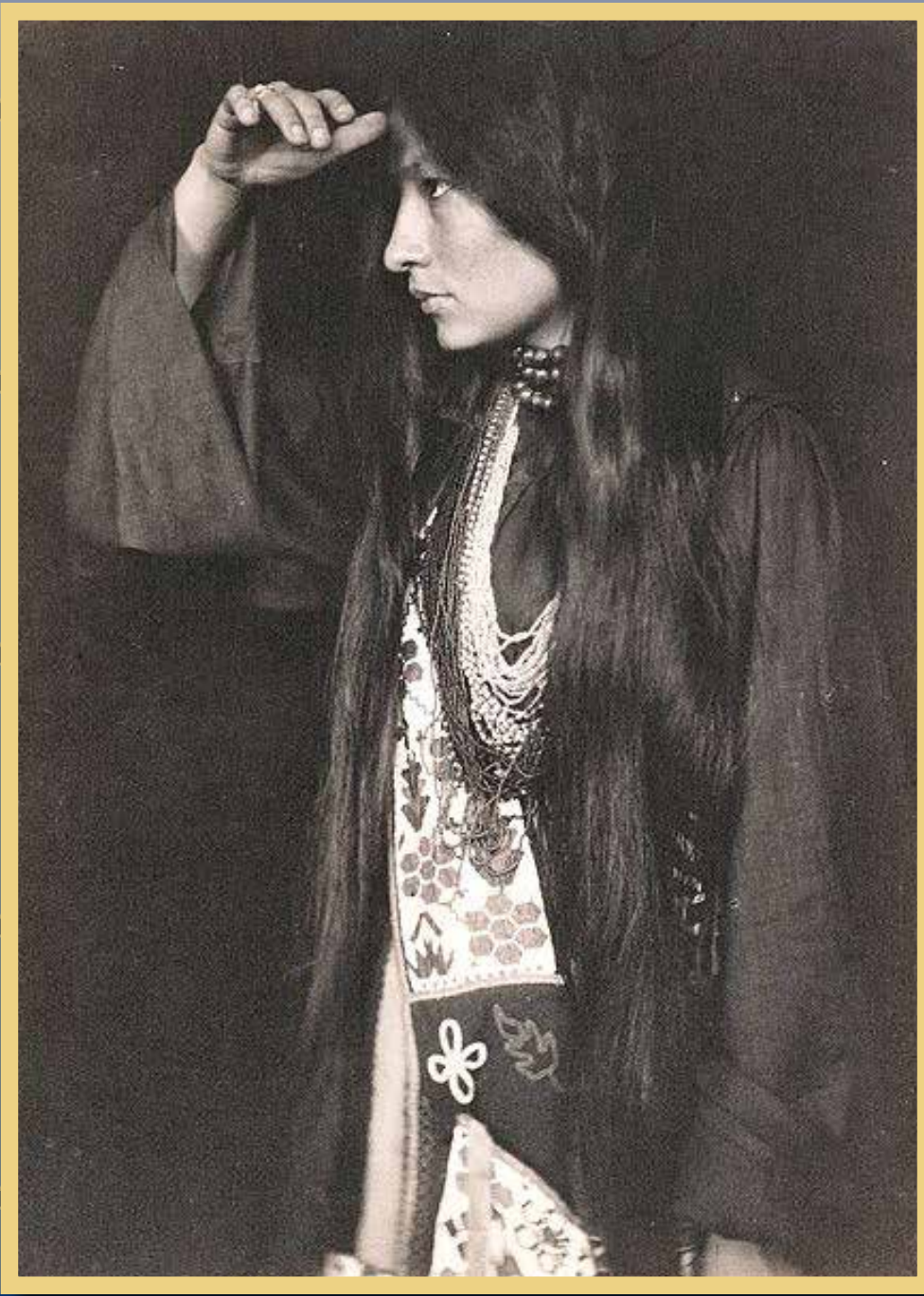
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			 <small>CHINESE GIRL WANTS VOTE Miss Lee Rides in First Parade, to Ride in Suffrage Parade.</small>			1
2	3 1913 Suffrage procession, Washington, DC	4	5 Ash Wednesday	6	7	8 International Women's Day
9	10 Harriet Tubman Day	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 1853 First issue of <i>The Provincial Freeman</i> published	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					1961 23 rd Amendment: DC residents can vote in presidential elections



APRIL 2025

On November 2, 1920, barely two months after the enactment of the 19th Amendment, eight million women vote in the 34th presidential election. Ida B. Wells runs for delegate in 1928. While national law allows women to vote, women of color, especially Black women in the South, find their ability to vote depressed by state and local laws, such as literacy requirements and poll taxes, as well as by violence. Poll taxes and other barriers to voting are not prohibited until the mid-1960s with the enactment of the 24th Amendment and the sweeping reforms of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Today, voter suppression remains an obstacle. Stacey Abrams (below) and many others work to protect the voting rights of people of color, young people, and all voters, and help register nearly 800,000 voters for the 2020 presidential election.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6 1917 US enters World War I	7	8	9 1865 Civil War ends	10	11	12 Passover begins 1861 Civil War begins; suffrage activity suspended
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 1929 Literate Puerto Rican women gain vote
20 Easter	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



MAY 2025

At their 1848 meeting in Seneca Falls, NY, suffragists are inspired by local Iroquois women who own property, have rights to their children, and exercise political power. Zitkála-Šá (above) and other Native activists advocate for suffrage. However, Native women are not considered US citizens and cannot vote until the passage of the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924. Even with citizenship, many still face state and local barriers to voting. Zitkála-Šá founds the National Council of American Indians in 1926 to advocate for rights and representation. Not until 2018 are the first Native women elected to Congress: Representatives Deb Haaland (NM, below) and Sharice Davids (KS, see Sept). In 2020, Rep. Haaland is appointed as Secretary of the Interior, becoming the first Native American to serve as a Cabinet Secretary.

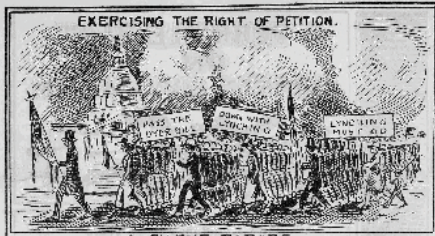
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>"In the councils of the Iroquois every adult male or female had a voice upon all questions brought before it."</i> Elizabeth Cady Stanton</p> <p><i>"Division of power between the sexes in this Indian Republic was nearly equal ...its women exercised controlling power in peace and war."</i> Matilda Gage</p>				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 1886 Frances Harper: "White women speak of rights; I speak of wrongs"
11 Mother's Day	12	13	14	15	16	17 1954 <i>Brown v Board of Education</i> rules school segregation illegal
18 1896 <i>Plessy v Ferguson</i> rules "separate but equal" is constitutional	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 1851 Sojourner Truth delivers "Ain't I a Woman" speech in Ohio	30	31 Memorial Day



JUNE 2025

April 1939, Marian Anderson gives a concert to an integrated audience of 75,000 at the Lincoln Memorial in the segregated city of Washington, DC (above). Both Mary McLeod Bethune, President of the new National Council of Negro Women (below, center) and Dr. Dorothy Height attend. Dr. Height recalls, "The first words that came from her mouth were, 'My country tis of thee. . . .' She made us all proud to be Americans when she could sing . . . 'let freedom ring.'" President Bethune recalls, "Something happened in all of our hearts. . . . We are on the right track—we must go forward. The reverence and concentration of the throngs told a story of hope for tomorrow—a story of pulling together—a story of splendor and real democracy." Twenty-four years later, Dr. Height (below far right) is one of the organizers of the March on Washington where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. shares his dream and inspires the next generation of civil rights workers.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 1924 Indian Citizenship Act grants citizenship to Native Americans	3	4 1919 After 41 years of debate, Senate passes Woman Suffrage amendment	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Father's Day	16	17	18	19 Juneteenth celebrates emancipation from slavery	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 1952 Immigration and Naturalization Act lets Asians become citizens	28
29	30					



A SILENT PARADE

Vote Against Those Who Voted To Protect The Lynching Industry.




Join This Silent Parade



JULY 2025

In 1896, 73 delegates found the National Association of Colored Women (NACW) in Washington, DC, including Mary Church Terrell (1st President, below), Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, Anna Julia Cooper, Fannie Barrier Williams, Hallie Q. Brown, Frances E. Harper, and Helen Pitts Douglass (Frederick Douglass' widow). By 1914, NACW has 50,000 members and 1,000 clubs across the country focusing on the welfare of their communities and other social issues, including lynching, suffrage, and voter suppression. Activism continues under other leaders such as Nannie Helen Burroughs, Fannie Coppin, and Mary McCleod Bethune (President) who later founds the National Council of Negro Women (1935). For example, NACW issues an anti-lynching pamphlet (1922) and protests lynching at the White House (1946, see above). In 1952, 88-year-old Mary Church Terrell pickets segregated restaurants in Washington (see above), leading to a 1953 ruling declaring segregated eating places unconstitutional. NACW is renamed National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc. in 1958.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<p>1</p> <p>1971 26th Amendment: Congress lowers the voting age to 18.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>1964 Civil Rights Act enacted</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Independence Day</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>1868 14th Amendment ratified extending citizenship and rights to former slaves</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1848 Seneca Falls Convention endorses Declaration of Sentiments</p>
<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>1896 National Association of Colored Women founded 1st national organization for women of color</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>1895 Josephine Ruffin calls for a "new era" for the colored women of America</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p><i>"And so, lifting as we climb, onward and upward we go, struggling and striving, and hoping that the buds and blossoms of our desires will burst into glorious fruition 'ere long."</i></p> <p>Mary Church Terrell</p>	



AUGUST 2025



Even with passage of the 19th Amendment, many women still cannot vote because of state and local laws and practices. In 1965, the Voting Rights Act prohibits practices or procedures that "... deny or abridge the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color." The Act had a dramatic impact—significantly increasing voter registration and participation, among Black people, in the Southern states, and especially among minority women. Above, voters line up at a small country store in Peachtree, AL to vote in May 1966. Below, President Lyndon Johnson, after signing the Act, greets honored guests, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, and John Lewis. In 2013, the Supreme Court, in *Shelby v. Holder*, reverses many of the gains associated with the Voting Rights Act, resulting in the closure of hundreds of polling places, primarily in minority neighborhoods. It also eliminated many practices designed to facilitate registration and voting.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6 1965 Voting Rights Act prohibits racial discrimination in voting	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 1848 Lucretia Mott writes to the <i>Liberator</i> about her visit to the Seneca Nation	25	26 Women's Equality Day	27	28 1986 Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act passed	29	30 1835 Abolitionist Sara Grimke publishes letter on Boston slavery riot
31		1920 19 th Amendment signed into law				



SEPTEMBER 2025

Firsts! Kamala Harris has broken many barriers during her career: the first woman of color to be nominated for President by a major party; elected as Vice-President and to serve as President of the Senate; the second Black woman and first South Asian American elected to the Senate; and the first woman to be elected Attorney General of California. And, she is the first to acknowledge the many women who have preceded her, such as: Rep. Shirley Chisholm (IL), below: Rep. Patsy Mink (HI), below from left; Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL); Sen. Carol Moseley Braun (IL) (below, right) - the second African-American since Reconstruction; Rep. Sharice Davids (KS) and Secretary Deb Haaland (NM)—the first Native American women elected to the House - 94 years after passage of the Indian Citizenship Act.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Labor Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 1789 US Constitution signed; states keep authority to decide who can vote	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 1875 Matilda Gage writes about Five Nations confederacy where women "exercise power in peace and war"	25	26	27
28	29	30				

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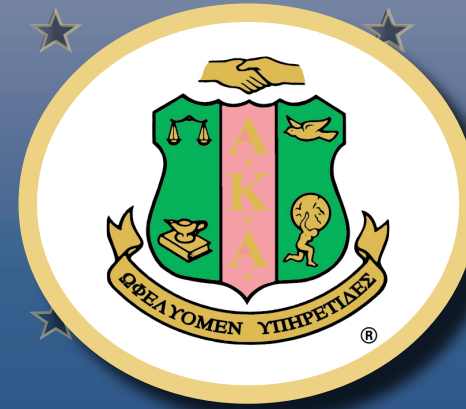
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OCTOBER 2025

Since at least the 1910s, Latinas have been actively engaged in suffrage activities (below). In California, material on voting is translated into Spanish. In New Mexico, suffragist Nina Otero-Warren (below, left) and others collaborate with the National Woman's Party, and in Texas, journalist Jovita Idár (below, right) writes against "Juan Crow laws" and encourages women's education and suffrage. Otero-Warren runs for Congress in 1922. She loses and not until 67 years later is Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL) elected to the House. Later activism focuses heavily on labor issues; activist Dolores Huerta joins Cesar Chavez to found the United Farm Workers. Huerta continues work on voter registration and participation—even celebrating her 90th birthday in 2020 promoting the vote (above).

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dese a la Mujer de California El Derecho de Votar VOTOS PARA LA MUJER		 	1 Yom Kippur	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Indigenous Peoples Day	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 1864 Sojourner Truth visits President Lincoln in the White House	30	31	



**In Memoriam Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee
— a fearless trailblazer and tireless advocate.**



NOVEMBER 2025

Black women form clubs as early as 1793 and work to support their communities, abolition, suffrage, and other causes. Two Black sororities stand out for their work promoting the vote as well as their success in seeing their members elected. Alpha Kappa Alpha (1908) members—Sen. Kamala Harris and seven Representatives—stand in front of a statue honoring Rosa Parks in the Capitol (above, left). Seven Delta Sigma Theta (1913) members are Representatives (above, right). Dr. Height addresses the AKA convention (below, left). At an annual conference, Delta Days (below, left), national members advocate for policies affecting their communities, meet members of Congress, and hone their political skills. Both sororities are committed to voter education, registration, and protection, and are effective users of social media (see the video “Stroll to the Polls” (below right)).

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 1920 Eight million women vote across the US	3	4 Election Day	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Veterans Day 1918 World War I ends	12 1922 Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority founded	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29
30						

WOMEN OF COLOR IN THE 118TH CONGRESS

 Rep. Alma S. Adams - NC	 Rep. Joyce Beatty - OH	 Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester - DE	 Rep. Shontel Brown - OH	 Rep. Cori Bush - MO	 Rep. Yadira Caraveo - CO	 Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer - OR	 Rep. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick - FL
 Rep. Judy Chu - CA	 Rep. Yvette Clarke - NY	 Rep. Jasmine Crockett - TX	 Rep. Sharice Davids - KS	 Rep. Monica De La Cruz - TX	 Rep. Nanette Diaz Barragan - CA	 Rep. Veronica Escobar - TX	 Rep. Valerie P. Foushee - NC
 Rep. Sylvia R Garcia - TX	 Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp-Perez - WA	 Rep. Jahana Hayes - CT	 Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton - DC	 Rep. Pramila Jayapal - WA	 Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove - CA	 Rep. Robin Kelly - IL	 Rep. Young Kim - CA
 Rep. Barbara Lee - CA	 Rep. Summer L. Lee - CA	 Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez - NM	 Rep. Anna Paulina Luna - FL	 Rep. Nicole Malliotakis - NY	 Rep. Doris Matsui - CA	 Rep. Lucy McBath - GA	 Rep. Jennifer L. McClellan - VA
 Rep. Grace Meng - NY	 Rep. Gwen S. Moore - WI	 Rep. Grace F. Napolitano - CA	 Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez - NY	 Rep. Ilhan Omar - MN	 Rep. Mary Peltola - AK	 Rep. Ayanna Pressley - MA	 Rep. Delia Ramirez - IL
 Rep. Maria Salazar - FL	 Rep. Andrea Salinas - OR	 Rep. Linda T. Sanchez - CA	 Rep. Terri A. Sewell - AL	 Rep. Michelle Steel - CA	 Rep. Marilyn Strickland - WA	 Rep. Emilia Sykes - OH	 Rep. Rashida Tlaib - MI
 Rep. Jill Tokuda - HI	 Rep. Norma J. Torres - CA	 Rep. Lauren Underwood - IL	 Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez - NY	 Rep. Maxine Waters - CA	 Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman - NJ	 Rep. Nikema Williams - GA	 Rep. Frederica S. Wilson - FL

DECEMBER 2025

The 118th Congress opens with a record-setting 124 women in the House of Representatives and also with the greatest diversity in history with 4 Senators and 56 Representatives who identify themselves as minority women.* The House opens with record-setting numbers who are Black (27) and Hispanic/Latina (18). Vice President Harris, according to the Constitution, also serves as President of the Senate. In addition, 4 women of color serve as non-voting Delegates including Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton of DC.

* Data from the Center for American Women in Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University. <https://womenrun.rutgers.edu/2022-report/congress/> Based on data provided by Congresswomen to CAWP.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 Sen. Laphonza Butler - CA	1 1833 Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society founded by biracial group of suffragists	2	3	4	5 1935 National Council of Negro Women founded	6 1865 13 th Amendment enacted abolishing slavery in the US
7 1868 Universal suffrage amendment introduced in Senate; never voted on	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Hanukkah begins	15	16	17 1943 Chinese Exclusion Act repealed	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa begins	27
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	 Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto - NV	 Sen. Tammy Duckworth - IL	 Sen. Mazie K. Hirono - HI

Acknowledgements



#BWOA

BLACK WOMEN'S ORGANIZING ARCHIVE



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