

August 2021

Celebrating the passage of the Voting Rights Act

Today marks the 101 year anniversary of the 1920 adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment. The Nineteenth Amendment made voting a right regardless of gender.

Women's Equality Day helps us reflect on the history of our successes and errors in our fight for gender equality. The suffrage movement, as Montana State Senator Diane Sands says in the video linked below, is an excellent example of a movement that had great achievements and some very serious shortcomings.

One hundred and one years after the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, the ability of working class women, Black, Indigenous, and women of color, and transgender voters to freely cast their ballot is far from guaranteed.

Our work to secure the right to vote is ongoing. Together, we continue to work toward a vibrant democracy where we can cast our ballots without obstruction or suppression. Want to get involved? You can connect with Women's Foundation grantee, **Montana Women Vote**, to learn more about voting rights in Montana.

Sincerely,



Kylie Gursky
WFM Program Officer
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Today is Women's Equality Day

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Last August marked the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote. In honor of this notable anniversary, NBC News posted a video to observe **Women's Equality Day**. In 1920, all women were given the right to vote,

however, voter suppression prevented black women from getting to the polls. In 1914, 6 years prior to the nationwide suffrage vote, Montanans voted 53% to 47% for extending **voting rights to non-Native women**. However, Indigenous women would have to wait until the **1924 Indian Citizenship Act** to gain voter rights.



Jennette Rankin

Representing the Women of Montana and our Country

Jeanette Rankin was named Ranking Member of the new Suffrage Committee when it was established on September 24, 1917. The following January, Rankin and the Suffrage Committee were able to bring the amendment to the House floor. The resolution passed the house for the first time, however, it later died in the Senate. A year later, both chambers of Congress pass the same resolution with overwhelming margins. The 19th Amendment was ratified and added to the constitution in August 1920. With the help of Montana's own, Jeannette Rankin, US women had won the right to vote.



Montana Votes!

Montana Woman Suffrage Exhibit

Last year the **Historical Museum at Fort Missoula** (HMFM) had a Montana Woman Suffrage Exhibit on display called **Montana Votes!** This exhibit takes a deep dive into Montana's election history. It shares the forces that have shaped our state's politics, from efforts by the Anaconda Copper Company to silence voters to the decades-long fight for Indigenous suffrage and voter equality." The exhibit closed August 15, 2021. However, HMFM created a 3-part lecture series discussing the history of



Here's What We're Paying Attention To ...

Native American Voter Suppression and the Fight Against It

As we remember women's suffrage and gaining the right to vote 101 years ago, we are reminded of the voter suppression still happening today.

In 1965 the Voting Rights Acts outlawed voter suppression and gave Indigenous communities the right to vote, in principle.

Montana is ground zero for Native American voter suppression — and the fight against it. “With a Democrat no longer holding veto power [in Montana], state Republicans took advantage of Gianforte's election by passing two new voting law bills: **House Bill 176**, which eliminates same-day voter registration, and **House Bill 530**, which makes it illegal for people to distribute or collect mail-in ballots if they're being paid to do so.”



Upcoming Events and Webinars

We will be hosting a webinar in September 2021. Stay up-to-date on our offerings as they're scheduled by liking or following our page on [Facebook!](#) To see our events page, click [here](#).

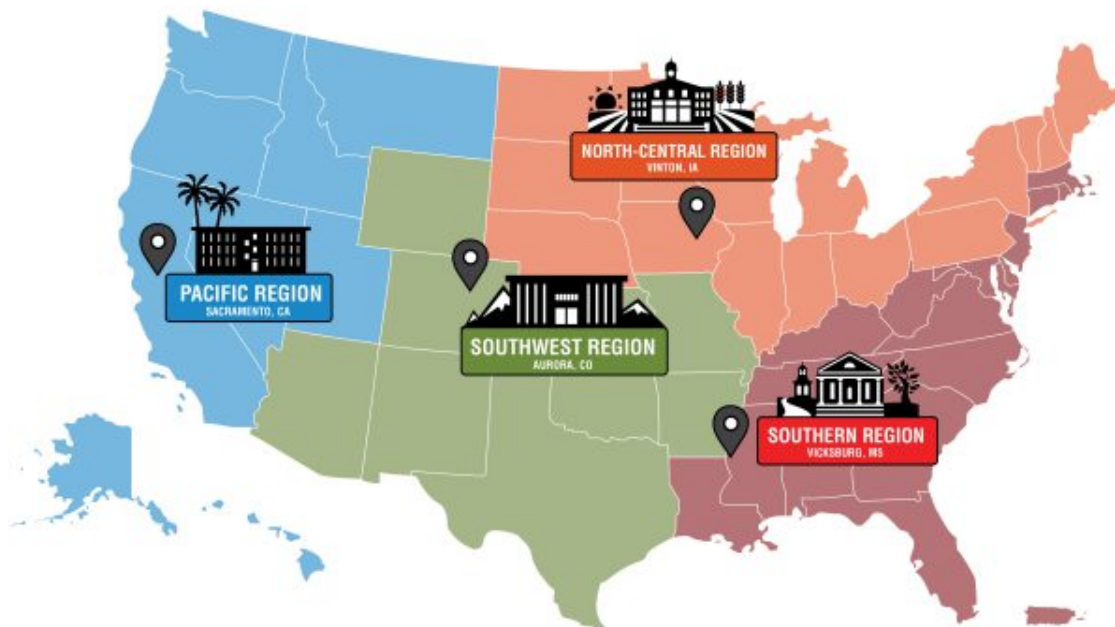


PowerHouse Blog

Kelly Curtis, the new **AmeriCorp** VISTA for the Women's Foundation of Montana and PowerHouse Montana, is sharing her experience with the AmeriCorps program and her choice to apply for our open AmeriCorp Vista position this year.

"In 1964, as part of his domestic "Great Society" campaign, President Lyndon B. Johnson created the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program. This was the first federally regulated program designed to send workers all over the U.S to serve in support of Johnson's War on Poverty. In 1992, the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) was created to help communities recover from disaster, but it wasn't until next year that AmeriCorps, known at that time as the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), was formed under President Clinton." [Read more here.](#)

NCCC Regional Map - June 2018



Have You Updated your PowerHouse Profile Lately?

One great feature of the **new Powerhouse Montana website** is the ability to edit your own profile. Make sure your information is up-to-date [here](#).

PowerHouse Montana, an initiative of the Women's Foundation of Montana, is an online platform designed to connect Montana women to the mentors and resources they need to succeed. [Learn more and sign up at powerhousemt.org.](#)

Volunteer and Development Opportunities in Montana

There are many websites that can help you find the perfect volunteer opportunity for you. **Want to Give Your Time? Check These 20 Websites for Volunteer Opportunities** is a great article to narrow down the website that meets your needs.

Visit **MNA's Nonprofit Job Board** where nonprofit job searching is catered to meet your needs. The Nonprofit Job Board offers: the best nonprofit jobs in the region, email alerts, customized searches, resume posting.



Together we can empower Montana women and girls to pursue their dreams.

Give Now

About the Women's Foundation of Montana

Established in 1999, the Women's Foundation of Montana is a program of Montana Community Foundation and on a mission to advance women's economic independence and create a brighter future for our girls. Learn more at wfmontana.org.



MONTANA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION