

Women's Suffrage Reading List for Youth

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, this list introduces young readers to women's suffrage leaders, both familiar and lesser known, who contribute alongside others to a broad legacy of activism and struggle towards the American promise of a representative and inclusive democracy.

Pre-K through Elementary

The Voice That Won the Vote: How One Woman's Words Made History

by Elisa Boxer, illustrated by Vivien Mildenerger
A letter from a mother to her legislator son forever changed the lives of American women.

A Lady Has the Floor: Belva Lockwood Speaks Out for Women's Rights

by Kate Hannigan, illustrated by Alison Jay
This illustrated biography details the life of activist Belva Lockwood, the first woman presidential candidate to appear on a ballot.

Two Friends: Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass

by Dean Robbins, illustrated by Sean Qualls and Selina Alko
Inspired by a statue of Anthony and Douglass having tea, this book weaves together a conversation that shows the interdependence of freedom.

Fight of the Century: Alice Paul Battles Woodrow Wilson for the Vote

by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated by Sarah Green
Women's rights leader Alice Paul is reimagined as a boxer who takes on President Woodrow Wilson in the fight of the century!

Ida B. Wells: Let the Truth Be Told

by Walter Dean Myers, illustrated by Bonnie Christensen
Award-winning author Walter Dean Myers masterfully details Wells' dedication to her community and the fight for justice.

Elizabeth Started All the Trouble

by Doreen Rappaport, illustrated by Matt Faulkner
Elizabeth Cady Stanton couldn't vote, go to college, or become a politician, but she did not let that stop her. She called on women across the US to stand together and fight for equal rights.

Lillian's Right to Vote

by Jonah Winter, illustrated by Shane W. Evans
Lillian, a 100-year-old African American woman, makes her way to her polling place, recalling everything it took to get there.

Bold & Brave: 10 Heroes Who Won Women the Right to Vote

by Kirsten Gillibrand, illustrated by Maira Kalman
Gillibrand highlights the battles of famous and lesser-known women who dared to be different and joined with others to fight for women's rights.

Marching with Aunt Susan: Susan B. Anthony and the Fight for Women's Suffrage

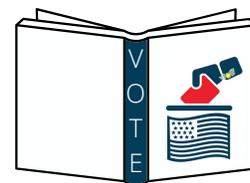
by Claire Rudolf Murphy, illustrated by Stacey Schuett
Bessie just wants to hike and do things boys can do. When Susan B. Anthony visits her town, she discovers that small efforts can result in big changes.

Ballots for Belva: The True Story of a Woman's Race for the Presidency

by Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen, Illustrated by Courtney Martin
Years before women had the right to vote, Belva Lockwood took the bold step of running for president.

Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters

by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Stephen Alcorn
Pinkney highlights the stories of 10 freedom fighters, lifting up the stories of black women from Sojourner Truth to Shirley Chisholm.



Program Ideas

- Invite an elected official to read and discuss one of the books on this reading list.
- Host a live or virtual storytime with a historical reenactor.
- For tips on hosting a virtual storytime, visit the Association for Library Service to Children's new guide: <http://www.ala.org/alsc/virtual-storytime-services-resource-guide>.
- Partner with the League of Women Voters or another organization to register newly eligible voters.
- Stage a mock election for your library's mascot. (See St. Helens Public Library: <https://bit.ly/3h7Gmz5>.)
- Play a Jeopardy-style game featuring known and little-known suffrage facts.
- Co-host a program on voting rights that includes a commemoration of the ratification of the 19th Amendment.
- Host a film series for teens featuring movies about women's suffrage and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- Visit [#LibrariesEngageVoters](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/voter-engagement) for additional information and resources: www.ala.org/advocacy/voter-engagement.



Middle School

Roses and Radicals: The Epic Story of How American Women Won the Right to Vote

by Susan Zimet and Todd Hasak-Lowy

Heroic actions and human failures informed the struggle for voting rights then and today.

Chasing Freedom: The Life Journeys of Harriet Tubman and Susan B. Anthony

by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by Michele Wood

An imagined conversation sets the scene and helps connect two historical movements for readers.

Lifting as We Climb: Black Women's Battle for the Ballot Box

by Evette Dionne

Dionne offers a long overdue examination of the roles black women played in suffrage movements throughout history and in the present day.

Woman in the House (and Senate): How Women Came to Washington and Changed the Nation

by Ilene Cooper, illustrated by Elizabeth Baddeley

From women's suffrage to the Pink Wave, this updated edition looks at women who have made important strides in the US legislative branch.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony: A Friendship That Changed the World

by Penny Colman

A glimpse into a powerful duo that united to improve women's lives, even when faced with scandals, betrayals, and backlash.

Alice Paul and the Fight for Women's Rights

by Deborah Kops

Alice Paul's advocacy for women's rights continued long beyond the passage of the 19th Amendment.

This list was created by a working group of staff and member leaders from ALA, AASL, ALSC, and YALSA in partnership with the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission.

Rebel Voices: The Global Fight for Women's Equality and the Right to Vote

by Louise Kay Stewart, illustrated by Eve Lloyd Knight

Readers take a global journey to discover powerful women and their out-of-the-box strategies to fight for equality and the right to vote.

High School

The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote

by Elaine Weiss

Political maneuvering, deals, and promises drove the final votes for women's suffrage.

All Bound Up Together: The Woman Question in African American Public Culture, 1830-1900

by Martha S. Jones

For three generations of black activists, the battle for suffrage goes beyond the 19th Amendment.

Why They Marched: Untold Stories of the Women Who Fought for the Right to Vote

by Susan Ware

Meet nineteen lesser-known advocates whose grassroots activism made a significant impact.

Suffrage: Women's Long Battle for the Vote

by Ellen Carol DuBois

DuBois examines a wide range of suffrage leaders and the other causes they championed.

Jailed for Freedom: A First-Person Account of the Militant Fight for Women's Rights

by Doris Stevens

This memoir by a militant suffragist was first published in 1920 and has been updated with a new forward and archival illustrations.

Votes for Women!: American Suffragists and the Battle for the Ballot

by Winifred Conkling

From Seneca Falls to ratification of the 19th Amendment, women marched, protested, and broke the law to achieve suffrage.

Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence

edited by Kate Clarke Lemay

In portraits, narratives, essays, photographs, and memorabilia, famous and unknown activists appear side by side.

Amazons, Abolitionists, and Activists: A Graphic History of Women's Fight for Their Rights

by Mikki Kendall, illustrated by A. D'Amico

This wide-sweeping look at women's movements across the globe is both celebratory of impact and frank about obstacles that remain.

She Came to Slay: The Life and Times of Harriet Tubman

by Erica Armstrong Dunbar

In addition to her work on the Underground Railroad, Harriet Tubman was a fierce suffragist and advocate for women's rights.

Display Ideas

- Create a suffrage timeline from the Constitution to the Supreme Court ruling on the Voting Rights Act.
- Include a women's suffrage anniversary block on your library's web page and link to this reading list or a custom one.
- Print posters from the NARA Rightfully Hers pop-up display: <https://museum.archives.gov/rightfully-hers>.
- Create a voter resource page on your website that features voting education efforts geared towards young adults and connects teens with voter registration information.
- Make a Jeopardy-style board (poster board with paper flaps) with voting-related questions.