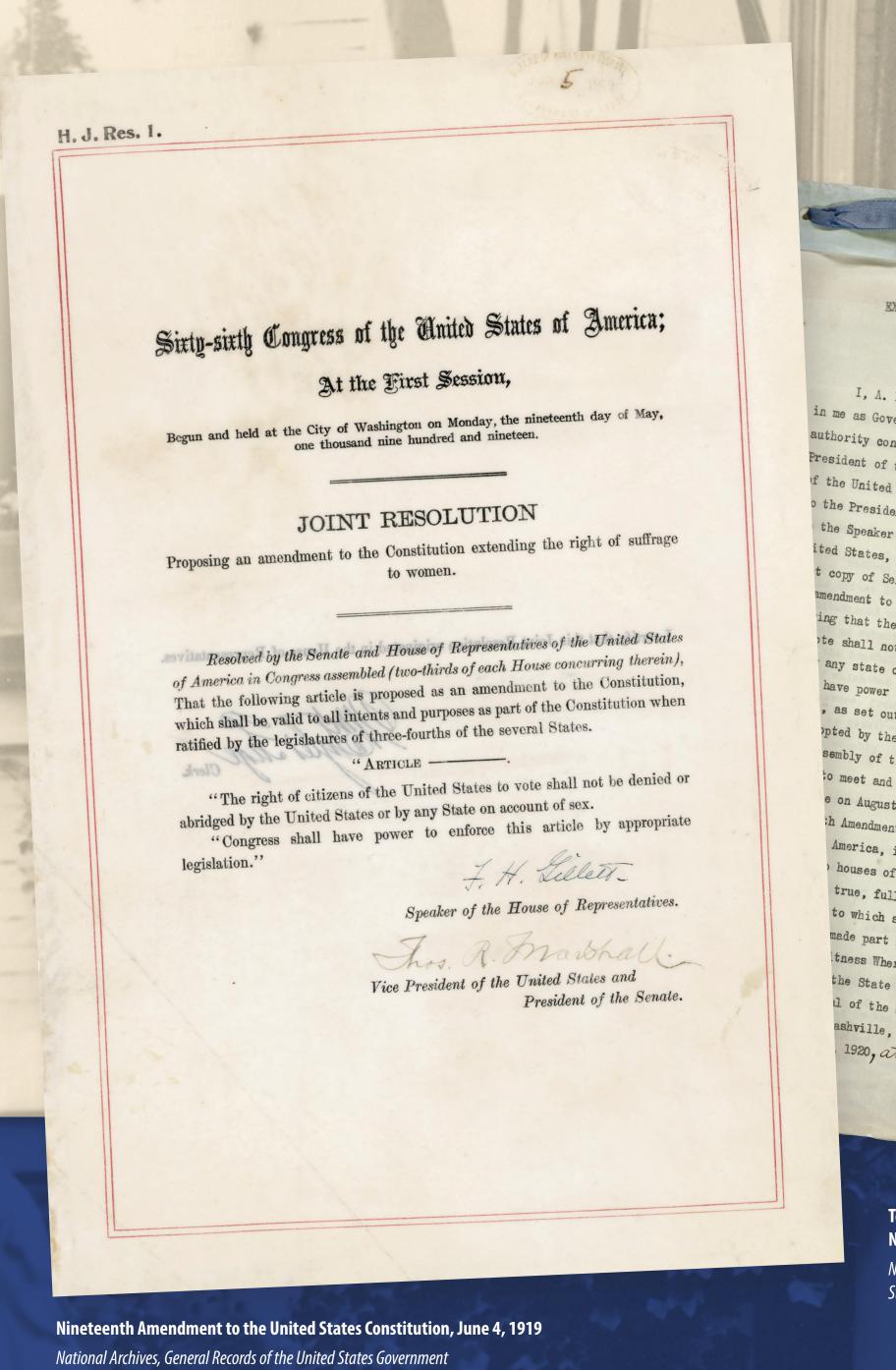
19TH AMENDMENT



EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, CAPITOL, NASHVILLE STATE OF TENNESSEE. I, A. H. Roberts, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Tennessee, and also the authority conferred upon me therein, do certify to the President of the United States, to the Secretary of State f the United States at Washington, District of Columbia, o the President of the Senate of the United States, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the ited States, that the attached paper is a true and pert copy of Senate Joint Resolution Number 1, ratifying amendment to the Constitution of the United States, deing that the rights of the citizens of the United States te shall not be denied or abridged by the United States any state on account of sex, and that the Congress have power to enforce said article by appropriate legis-, as set out in said resolution; and that same was passed opted by the first extra session of the Sixty-First Gensembly of the State of Tennessee, constitutionally to meet and convened at the Capitol, in the city of e on August 9, 1920, thereby ratifying said proposed h Amendment to the said Constitution of the United America, in manner and form appearing on the Journals houses of the General Assembly of the State of true, full and correct transcript of all entries to which said Resolution Number 1, are attached tness Whereof, I have hereunto signed my name as the State of Tennessee, and have affixed hereto al of the State of Tennessee, at the Capitol, in ashville, Tennessee, on this the twenty-fourth

Tennessee's Ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, August 18, 1920

National Archives, General Records of the United States Government

The ratification of the 19th Amendment was a landmark moment in American history that dramatically changed the electorate. It enshrined in the United States Constitution fuller citizenship for women and a more expansive democracy for the nation.

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

— 19th Amendment, August 18, 1920

Why is Tennessee's ratification of the 19th amendment significant?

After Congress passed and proposed a woman suffrage amendment, three-fourths or 36 states at that time, had to ratify the 19th Amendment before it could be added to the Constitution. Many states quickly approved the 19th amendment and by the

end of March 1920 only one additional state was needed for ratification. On August 18, 1920, after calling a special session of the state legislature, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment.



44 IT WAS A CONTINUOUS,
SEEMINGLY ENDLESS,

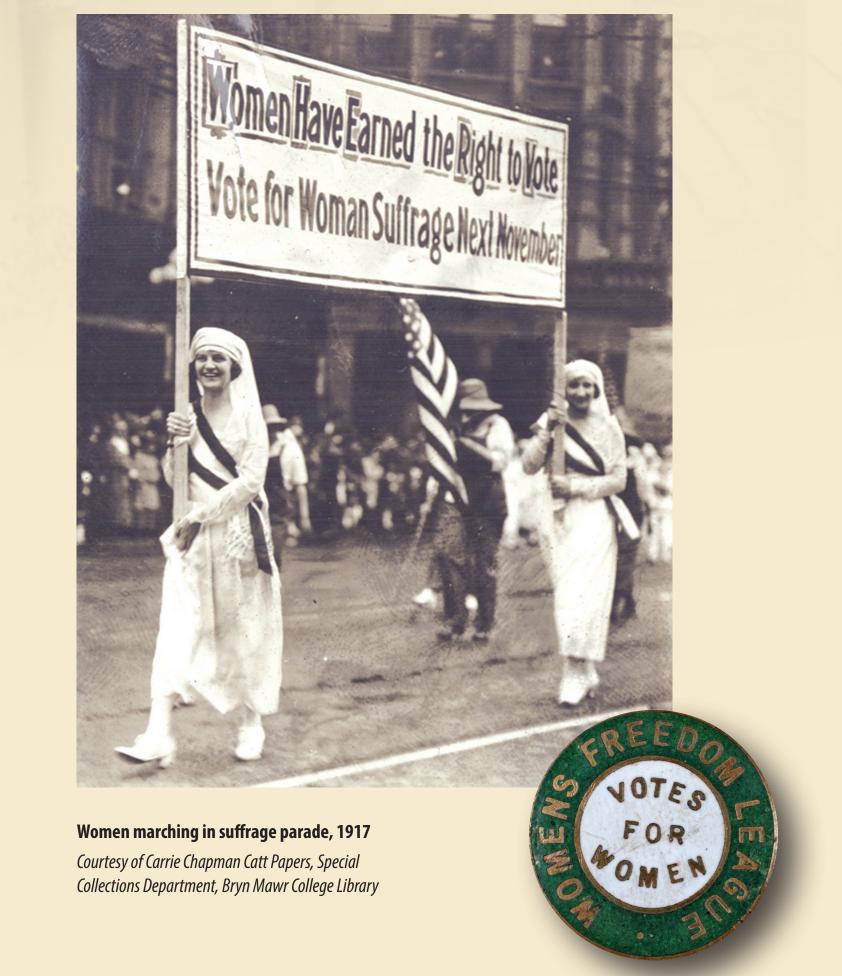
CHAIN OF ACTIVITY.

YOUNG SUFFRAGISTS WHO
HELPED FORGE THE LAST LINKS
OF THAT CHAIN WERE NOT
BORN WHEN IT BEGAN. OLD
SUFFRAGISTS WHO FORGED
THE FIRST LINKS WERE DEAD
WHEN IT ENDED. 77

— Carrie Chapman Catt and Nettie Rogers Shuler

Upon the word that Tennessee had ratified, Alice Paul unfurled the Woman's
Party ratification banner with its thirty-six stars, August 18, 1920

Courtesy of the Library of Congress



OUR ABILITY TO AMEND

The Founders purposefully made it hard, but not impossible, to change the Constitution. In 1869 the first amendment proposing suffrage for women was introduced in Congress. It took fifty years and 900 proposals for Congress to pass a resolution that became the 19th amendment to the Constitution.

"Learning to use a voting machine," Chicago, ca. 1915

National Archives, Records of the Office of War Information





Presented in part by:











