

Visualizing Votes for Women

Recommended Books on Women's Suffrage and Voting Rights

Susan Ware, *Why They Marched: Untold Stories of the Women Who Fought for the Right to Vote*. Harvard University Press, 2019.

“Ware’s excellent compendium expertly shows there are new ways to tell the suffrage story. This is a must-read for those interested in women’s and American history.” —Publishers Weekly

“Ware places 19 women who’ve been overlooked because of race, class or sexuality back on the front lines of the fight for the ballot. Their stories provide readers with an intimate account of the unheralded activism that won women the right to vote, and an opportunity to celebrate a truly diverse cohort of first-wave feminist changemakers.” —Ms.

Five New Books on Women's Suffrage Everyone Should Read

Ellen Carol DuBois. *Suffrage: Women's Long Battle for the Vote*. Simon & Schuster, 2020.

“The best book on the U.S. women’s suffrage movement for the general reader. For anyone interested in but not highly conversant with the history of the United States movement, this is the ideal book by one of the nation’s leading historians of the struggle.... If a reader seeks a large amount of knowledge inside a beautifully written tale that can be read in several days at most, this is the book to choose.”

—Amazon Review

Martha S. Jones. *Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All*. Basic Books, September 2020.

“Martha Jones is *the* political historian of African American women. And this book is *the* commanding history of the remarkable struggle of African American women for political power.... All Americans would be better off learning this history and grasping just how much we owe equality's vanguard.”

—Ibram X. Kendi, *National Book Award winner*

Kate Clarke Lemay, ed. *Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence*. Princeton University Press, 2019.

“Weaving together a diverse collection of portraits and other visual materials—including photographs, drawings, paintings, prints, textiles, and mixed media—along with biographical narratives and trenchant essays, this comprehensive book presents fresh perspectives on the history of the movement.... With nearly 200 color illustrations.... Published in association with the National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C.”

—press.princeton.edu

Lisa Tetrault. *The Myth of Seneca Falls: Memory and the Women's Suffrage Movement, 1848-1898*. University of North Carolina, 2014.

“This provocative work challenges the standard narrative of the history of the women's rights movement in the United States. Even more important, however, it aids readers in understanding how collective historical memory is created and shaped.... Fascinating.... Recommended for scholars in women's history, constitutional history, and late 19th-century American history.” —*Library Journal*

Elaine Weiss. *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*. Viking, 2018.

“Weiss is a clear and genial guide with an ear for telling language.... She also shows a superb sense of detail, and it's the deliciousness of her details that suggests certain individuals warrant entire novels of their own... Weiss's thoroughness is one of the book's great strengths. So vividly had she depicted events that by the climactic vote (spoiler alert: The amendment was ratified!), I got goose bumps.”

—Curtis Sittenfeld, *The New York Times Book Review*

Classics Everyone Should Read

Eleanor Flexner. *Century of Struggle: The Woman's Rights Movement in the United States*. Harvard University Press, 1959, 1980, 2020.

“The book you are about to read tells the story of one of the great social movements in American history. The struggle for women's voting rights was one of the longest, most successful, and in some respects most radical challenges ever posed to the American system of electoral politics.... For sheer drama the suffrage movement has few equals in modern American political history.” —*From the Preface by Ellen Fitzpatrick*

Paula Giddings. *When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America*. William Morrow & Co., 1984; Harper Collins, 2007.

“*When and Where I Enter* reveals the immense moral power black women possessed and sought to wield throughout their history — the same power that prompted Anna Julia Cooper in 1892 to tell a group of black clergymen, Only the black woman can say 'when and where I enter, in the quiet, undisputed dignity of my womanhood, without violence and without suing or special patronage, then and there the whole ... race enters with me.'” —harpercollins.com

Aileen Kraditor. *The Ideas of the Woman Suffrage Movement, 1890–1920*. Columbia University Press, 1965; W. W. Norton, 1981.

“A first-rate piece of research. The papers of the woman suffrage leaders are a gold mine of social and intellectual history, and ... Kraditor is the first to make full use of them.... As a result of her work, the textbooks will have to be revised, and much of the oversimplification on the subject now in print will quietly fade from sight.” —Anne Firor Scott, Duke University, reviewing the 1965 edition

Gerda Lerner. *The Grimke Sisters of South Carolina: Pioneers of Women's Rights*. University of North Carolina Press, 1967, 2004.

“A landmark work of women's history originally published in 1967, Gerda Lerner's best-selling biography of Sarah and Angelina Grimké explores the lives and ideas of the only southern women to become antislavery agents in the North and pioneers for women's rights.... In a revised introduction Lerner reinterprets her own work nearly forty years later and gives new recognition to the major significance of Sarah Grimké's feminist writings.” —uncpress.org

Rosalyn Terborg-Penn. *African American Women in the Struggle for the Vote, 1850–1920*. Indiana University Press, 1999.

“Rarely has a short book accomplished so much as Terborg-Penn's seminal work. With the utmost attention to detail Terborg-Penn examines the contributions of black suffragist stalwarts . . . It undoubtedly will become the definitive work on African American women's involvement in the mainstream woman suffrage movement and specifically on black women's struggle for the vote.” —Choice

Illustrated Histories of the Suffrage Movement

Robert Cooney. *Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement*. American Graphic Press, 2005.

Allison K. Lange. *Picturing Political Power: Images in the Women's Suffrage Movement*. University of Chicago Press, 2020.

Biographical Studies of Suffragists

Bonnie S. Anderson. *The Rabbi's Atheist Daughter: Ernestine Rose, International Feminist Pioneer*. Oxford University Press, 2017.

Jean H. Baker. *Sisters: The Lives of America's Suffragists*. Hill and Wang, 2006.

Mia Bay. *To Tell the Truth Freely: The Life of Ida B. Wells*. Hill and Wang, 2010.

David Blight. *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*. Simon & Schuster, 2018.

Carol Faulkner. *Lucretia Mott's Heresy: Abolition and Women's Rights in Nineteenth-Century America*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011.

J. Matthew Gallman. *America's Joan of Arc: The Life of Anna Elizabeth Dickinson*. Oxford University Press, 2006.

Paula Giddings. *Ida: A Sword Among Lions: Ida B. Wells and the Campaign Against Lynching*. Amistad, 2008.

Lori Ginzberg. *Elizabeth Cady Stanton: An American Life*. Hill and Wang, 2008.

Elizabeth Griffith. *In Her Own Right: The Life of Elizabeth Cady Stanton*. Oxford University Press, 1984.

Nancy Hewitt. *Radical Friend: Amy Kirby Post and Her Activist Worlds*. University of North Carolina Press, 2018.

Nell Irvin Painter. *Sojourner Truth: A Life, a Symbol*. W.W. Norton, 1997.

Jennifer Ross-Nazzari. *Winning the West for Women: The Life of Suffragist Emma Smith DeVoe*. University of Washington Press, 2011.

Kathryn Kish Sklar. *Florence Kelley and the Nation's Work: The Rise of Women's Political Culture, 1830-1900*. Yale University Press, 1995.

Jacqueline Van Voris. *Carrie Chapman Catt: A Public Life*. Feminist Press at CUNY, 1996.

Jill D. Zahniser and Amelia R. Fry. *Alice Paul: Claiming Power*. Oxford University Press, 2014.

Books that Center Histories of Women of Color

Mia Bay. *To Tell the Truth Freely: The Life of Ida B. Wells*. Hill and Wang, 2010.

Maylei Blackwell. *¡Chicana Power! Contested Histories of Feminism in the Chicano Movement*. University of Texas Press, 2011.

Keisha N. Blain. *Set the World on Fire: Black Nationalist Women and the Global Struggle for Freedom*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018.

Cathleen D. Cahill. *Recasting the Vote: How Women of Color Transformed the Suffrage Movement*. University of North Carolina, 2020.

Brittney C. Cooper. *Beyond Respectability: The Intellectual Thought of Race Women*. University of Illinois Press, 2018.

Paula Giddings. *Ida: A Sword Among Lions: Ida B. Wells and the Campaign Against Lynching*. Amistad, 2008.

Ann D. Gordon et al., eds. *African American Women and the Vote, 1837–1965*. University of Massachusetts Press, 1997.

Sharon Harley and Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, eds. *The Afro-American Woman: Struggles and Images*. Kennikat Press, 1978.

Wanda Hendricks. *Gender, Race, and Politics in the Midwest: Black Club Women in Illinois*. Indiana University Press, 1998.

Martha S. Jones. *All Bound Up Together: The Woman Question in African American Public Culture, 1830–1900*. University of North Carolina Press, 2007.

Lisa G. Materson. *For the Freedom of Her Race: Black Women and Electoral Politics in Illinois, 1877–1932*. University of North Carolina Press, 2009.

Nell Irvin Painter. *Sojourner Truth: A Life, a Symbol*. W.W. Norton, 1997.

Vicki Ruiz. *From Out of the Shadows: Mexican Women in Twentieth-Century America*. Oxford University Press, 2008.

Dorothy Sterling. *We Are Your Sisters: Black Women in the Nineteenth Century*. W. W. Norton, 1984.

Books on International Women's Rights

Bonnie S. Anderson. *Joyous Greetings: The First International Women's Movement, 1830–1860*. Oxford University Press, 2001.

Katherine Marino. *Feminism for the Americas: The Making of an International Human Rights Movement*. University of North Carolina Press, 2019.

Leila J. Rupp. *Worlds of Women: The Making of an International Women's Movement*. Princeton University Press, 1998.

Collections of Scholarly Essays

Jean H. Baker, ed. *Votes for Women: The Struggle for Suffrage Revisited*. Oxford University Press, 2002.

Ann D. Gordon et al., eds. *African American Women and the Vote, 1837–1965*. University of Massachusetts Press, 1997.

Melanie Gustafson, Kristie Miller, and Elisabeth I. Perry, eds. *We Have Come to Stay: American Women and Political Parties, 1880–1960*. University of New Mexico Press, 1999.

Sharon Harley and Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, eds. *The Afro-American Woman: Struggles and Images*. Kennikat Press, 1978.

Christine L. Ridarsky and Mary M. Huth, eds. *Susan B. Anthony and the Struggle for Equal Rights*. University of Rochester, 2012.

Kathryn Kish Sklar and James Brewer Stewart, eds. *Women's Rights and Transatlantic Slavery in the Era of Emancipation*. Yale University Press, 2007.

Marjorie Spruill Wheeler. *One Woman, One Vote: Rediscovering the Woman Suffrage Movement*. New Sage Press, 1995.

Books Providing Overviews from a Variety of Perspectives

Ellen Carol DuBois. *Feminism and Suffrage: The Emergence of an Independent Women's Movement in America, 1848–1869*. Cornell University Press, 1999.

Faye E. Dudden. *Fighting Chance: The Struggle over Woman Suffrage and Black Suffrage in Reconstruction America*. Oxford University Press, 2011.

Linda G. Ford. *Iron-Jawed Angels: The Suffrage Militancy of the National Woman's Party, 1912-1920*. University Press of America, 1991.

Jo Freeman. *A Room at a Time: How Women Entered Party Politics*. Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2000.

Liette Gidlow. *The Big Vote: Gender, Consumer Culture, and the Politics of Exclusion, 1890s-1920s*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004.

Lori Ginzberg. *Untidy Origins: A Story of Woman's Rights in Antebellum New York*. University of North Carolina Press, 2005.

Susan Goodier. *No Votes for Women: The New York State Anti-Suffrage Movement*. University of Illinois Press, 2013.

Susan Goodier and Karen Pastorello. *Women Will Vote: Winning Suffrage in New York State*. Cornell University Press, 2017.

Melanie Susan Gustafson. *Women and the Republican Party, 1854-1924*. University of Illinois Press, 2001.

Alexander Keyssar. *The Right to Vote: The Contested History of Democracy in the United States*. Basic Books, 2000.

Sally G. McMillen. *Seneca Falls and the Origins of the Women's Rights Movement*. Oxford University Press, 2008.

Rebecca J. Mead. *How the Vote Was Won: Woman Suffrage in the Western United States, 1868-1914*. New York University Press, 2004.

Robyn Muncy. *Creating a Female Dominion in American Reform, 1890-1935*. Oxford University Press, 1994.

Johanna Neuman. *Gilded Suffragists: The New York Socialites Who Fought for Women's Right to Vote*. New York University Press, 2017.

Kim E. Nielsen. *Un-American Womanhood: Antiradicalism, Antifeminism, and the First Red Scare*. Ohio State University Press, 2001.

Annelise Orleck. *Common Sense and a Little Fire: Women and Working-Class Politics in the United States, 1900-1965*. University of North Carolina Press, 1995.

Manisha Sinha. *The Slave's Cause: A History of Abolition*. Yale University Press, 2016.

Allison L. Sneider. *Suffragists in an Imperial Age: U.S. Expansion and the Woman Question, 1870-1929*. Oxford University Press, 2008.

Christine Stansell. *The Feminist Promise: 1792 to the Present*. Modern Library, 2010.

Judith Wellman. *The Road to Seneca Falls: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the First Woman's Rights Convention*. University of Illinois Press, 2004.

Marjorie Spruill Wheeler. *New Women of the New South: The Leaders of the Woman Suffrage Movement in the Southern States*. Oxford University Press, 1993.

Lola Van Wagenen. *Sister-Wives and Suffragists: Polygamy and the Politics of Woman Suffrage, 1870-1896*. Dissertation Press, 2003.

Books on Women and Politics After 1920

Kristi Andersen. *After Suffrage: Women in Partisan and Electoral Politics before the New Deal*. University of Chicago Press, 1996.

Carol Anderson. *One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression is Destroying our Democracy*. Bloomsbury, 2018.

Nancy F. Cott. *The Grounding of Modern Feminism*. Yale University Press, 1987.

Anna L. Harvey. *Votes Without Leverage: Women in Electoral Politics, 1920-1970*. Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Jan Doolittle Wilson. *The Women's Joint Congressional Committee and the Politics of Maternalism, 1920-1930*. University of Illinois Press, 2007.

Books that Allow You to Dig Deeper into the Sources

Mari Jo Buhle and Paul Buhle, *The Concise History of Woman Suffrage*. University of Illinois Press, 2005.

Ann D. Gordon, ed. *The Selected Papers of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony*, 6 vols. Rutgers University Press, 1997–2013.

Sally Roesch Wagner, ed. *The Women's Suffrage Movement*. Penguin Books, 2019.