Women's Equality Day celebrates the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution which guarantees all American women the right to vote.

The amendment changed federal law and the face of the American electorate forever.

I always feel the movement is a sort of mosaic. Each of us puts in one little stone, and then you get a great mosaic at the end.

—Alice Paul, American Suffragette
The drive to win the vote was a broad and diverse effort. A strong suffrage movement existed in many Black communities, but the laws, particularly in the South, barred Black women from voting for decades after 1920. It wasn’t until passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965 that these women obtained suffrage as well.

Additionally, Native American women fought for their right to vote until 1924, Chinese American women until 1943, and Japanese and other Asian American women until 1952. Finally, Hawaiian women didn’t obtain the right to vote until 1959 when Hawaii became a state.

**FUN FACT:** The Alaska Territory granted Alaskan women full voting rights in 1913. Seven years before the 19th Amendment!
Kamala D. Harris is the first woman, the first Black American, and the first Asian American to be elected Vice President. During her childhood, her parents brought her to civil rights demonstrations. She was introduced to role models including Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and civil rights leader Constance Baker Motley—whose work motivated her to become a prosecutor.

“My mother would look at me and she’d say, ‘Kamala, you may be the first to do many things, but make sure you are not the last.’”

Cadet Kasey Meredith became Virginia Military Institute's (VMI) first female Regimental Commander—the highest-ranking position a Cadet can earn—for the 2021-2022 academic year. Cadet Meredith is the first female regimental commander in VMI’s 182-year history.

VMI, founded as an all-male military college, was the nation’s last state-supported college to become coeducational. In 1997, the first women enrolled after a legal battle that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.
THE FUTURE IS ALL OF US

EQUALITY IS A HUMAN RIGHT

What does **EQUALITY** mean to you?