

## VOTING RIGHTS

## (Some) Women Get the Vote

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- :18 In 1920, the Florida legislature failed to support the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote, but enough states did so to make it law. May Mann Jennings, married to Florida's governor in 1900 used her position as First Lady to campaign for women's right to vote and founded Florida's League of Women Voters.
- :39 The suffrage movement was supported by such black leaders as Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Mary Church Terrell, and Frederick Douglas, yet with the passage of the 15th Amendment, white suffragists began to push for voting rights for white women only, excluding all women of color. Many of these suffragists worked alongside and even accepted funding from white supremacists. When the first suffrage parade was held in 1913, planners initially decided to segregate the march. They later agreed to allow black suffragists to march in the rear. Ida B. Wells Barnett, leader of the anti-lynching crusade ignored the instruction, stepped off the sidewalk and marched with the Illinois delegation. Also marching were 22 founding members of the black sorority, Delta Sigma Theta. In 1920, the 19th Amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote was passed, but it didn't guarantee that right for all women. It would be 45 more years before black women would be able to vote, not until the passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- 2:13 Strategic disenfranchisement of black and brown people remains a popular political tactic. It has been more difficult to combat since the 2018 Supreme Court ruling reversed federal oversight of state election practices. This opened the door to aggressive purges of voter rolls and other voter suppression tactics that disproportionately impact communities of color.

