

Lawrence Township Celebrates Women's Equality Day

- August 26th

August 26th is Women's Equality Day, a celebration of the anniversary of the certification of the nineteenth amendment. This amendment gave women the right to vote and was a major step forward in creating gender equality. The holiday was first suggested to Congress in 1971 and was officially passed in 1973. The nineteenth amendment was a culmination of peaceful civil rights movements dating back to 1848, which was the first women's convention in Seneca Falls. The amendment itself was ratified on August 18th but wasn't certified by the required number of states until August 26th thus our date for Women's Equality Day.

The National Organization for Women organized a Women's Strike for Equality across the whole country on August 26th 1970. This strike demanded equal opportunities in education and employment. This strike was the largest protest for gender equality in United States history at the time, with rallies taking place over more than 90 major cities and involving over 100,000 women in total. This provided inspiration for the creation of National Women's Equality Day. One year after this strike, a bill was introduced in Congress for this holiday and two years after that it became official.

Unfortunately, the suffrage movement in the United States represented more than woman's right to vote. The inequalities of racial discrimination and segregation played a pivotal role in the achievement surrounding woman's right to vote. The African-American community was directly affected by alienation of woman suffragist who believed the right to vote was only for white woman. The passage of the 19th amendment did not afford African-American Women the right to vote. In 1913, Ida B. Wells founded the Alpha Suffrage Club of Chicago, the nation's first Black women's club focused specifically on suffrage. The right for African-American woman to vote was subjected to the idea of "separate and unequal". Fortunately, the passage civil rights act of 1965 ensured all United States Citizens the right for expression at the ballot box. Today, these woman suffragist dedication and commitment for a woman's right to vote is represented by Vice President Kamala Harris, the first woman to occupy the title as Vice President of The United States of America.

Lawrence Township embraces diversity, inclusion and equality. The celebration of Woman's Equality Day highlights our continuous efforts to spotlight current and historical events related to diversity and inclusion. Gender discrimination continues to impact woman on a daily basis and recognition of the historical roots of discrimination against women is critical in dismantling and eradicating gender discrimination.

As we celebrate Women's Equality Day, we recognize and appreciate the numerous obstacles women have overcome in an effort to achieve equality. During this celebratory month of August, we reflect on the disparities women continue to face due to gender bias and discrimination. Women's Equality Day is a celebration of America's progress towards gender equality, starting with the nineteenth amendment. We appreciate and celebrate the efforts of those individuals who fought to transform our society compared to 100 years ago. Please join us in the celebration of Woman's equality day on August 26th. Below you will find links to educational resources highlighting woman's equality day.

Women's Equality Day Resources

Woman Equality Day Timeline

<https://nationaltoday.com/womens-equality-day/>

Women's Equality Day History

<https://nationaltoday.com/womens-equality-day/>

Women's Equality Day: Why it matters and how you can help drive change

<https://www.nbcnews.com/known-your-value/feature/women-s-equality-day-why-it-matters-how-you-can-ncna903786>

The USA's Women's Equality Day provides an important platform for change

<https://www.internationalwomensday.com/Missions/15559/The-USA-s-Women-s-Equality-Day-provides-an-important-platform-for-change>