Women's Suffrage Reading List for Youth

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, this list introduces young readers to women's suffrage leaders, both familiar and lesser known, who contribute alongside others to a broad legacy of activism and struggle towards the American promise of a representative and inclusive democracy.

Pre-K through Elementary

Ballots for Belva: The True Story of a Woman’s Race for the Presidency
by Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen, Illustrated by Courtney Martin
Years before women had the right to vote, Belva Lockwood took the bold step of running for president.

The Voice That Won the Vote: How One Woman’s Words Made History
by Elisa Boxer, illustrated by Vivien Mildenberger
A letter from a mother to her legislator son forever changed the lives of American women.

Bold & Brave: 10 Heroes Who Won Women the Right to Vote
by Kirsten Gillibrand, illustrated by Maira Kalman
Gillibrand highlights the battles of famous and lesser-known women who dared to be different and joined with others to fight for women’s rights.

A Lady Has the Floor: Belva Lockwood Speaks Out for Women’s Rights
by Kate Hannigan, illustrated by Alison Jay
This illustrated biography details the life of activist Belva Lockwood, the first woman presidential candidate to appear on a ballot.

Marching with Aunt Susan: Susan B. Anthony and the Fight for Women’s Suffrage
by Claire Rudolf Murphy, illustrated by Stacey Schuett
Bessie just wants to hike and do things boys can do. When Susan B. Anthony visits her town, she discovers that small efforts can result in big changes.

Ida B. Wells: Let the Truth Be Told
by Walter Dean Myers, illustrated by Bonnie Christensen
Award-winning author Walter Dean Myers masterfully details Wells’ dedication to her community and the fight for justice.

Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters
by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Stephen Alcorn
Pinkney highlights the stories of 10 freedom fighters, lifting up the stories of black women from Sojourner Truth to Shirley Chisholm.

Elizabeth Started All the Trouble
by Doreen Rappaport, illustrated by Matt Faulkner
Elizabeth Cody Stanton couldn’t vote, go to college, or become a politician, but she didn’t let that stop her. She called on women across the US to stand together and fight for equal rights.

Two Friends: Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass
by Dean Robbins, illustrated by Sean Qualls and Selina Alko
Inspired by a statue of Anthony and Douglass having tea, this book weaves together a conversation that shows the interdependence of freedom.

Fight of the Century: Alice Paul Battles Woodrow Wilson for the Vote
by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated by Sarah Green
Women’s rights leader Alice Paul is reimagined as a boxer who takes on President Woodrow Wilson in the fight of the century!

Lillian’s Right to Vote
by Jonah Winter, illustrated by Shane W. Evans
Lillian, a 100-year-old African American woman, makes her way to her polling place, recalling everything it took to get there.

Program Ideas

- Invite an elected official to read and discuss one of the books on this reading list.
- Host a live or virtual storytime with a historical reenactor.
- For tips on hosting a virtual storytime, visit the Association for Library Service to Children’s new guide: [http://www.ala.org/alsc/virtual-storytime-services-resource-guide](http://www.ala.org/alsc/virtual-storytime-services-resource-guide).
- Partner with the League of Women Voters or another organization to register newly eligible voters.
- Stage a mock election for your school or library’s mascot.
- Play a Jeopardy-style game featuring known and little-known suffrage facts.
- Co-host a program on voting rights that includes a commemoration of the ratification of the 19th Amendment.
- Visit #LibrariesEngageVoters for additional information and resources: [www.ala.org/advocacy/voter-engagement](http://www.ala.org/advocacy/voter-engagement).
Middle School

**Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony: A Friendship That Changed the World**
by Penny Colman
*A glimpse into a powerful duo that united to improve women's lives, even when faced with scandals, betrayals, and backlash.*

**Woman in the House (and Senate): How Women Came to Washington and Changed the Nation**
by Ilene Cooper, illustrated by Elizabeth Baddeley
*From women's suffrage to the Pink Wave, this updated edition looks at women who have made important strides in the US legislative branch.*

**Roses and Radicals: The Epic Story of How American Women Won the Right to Vote**
by Susan Zimet and Todd Hasak-Lowy
*Heroic actions and human failures informed the struggle for voting rights then and today.*

**High School**

**Votes for Women!: American Suffragists and the Battle for the Ballot**
by Winifred Conkling
*From Seneca Falls to ratification of the 19th Amendment, women marched, protested, and broke the law to achieve suffrage.*

**Suffrage: Women's Long Battle for the Vote**
by Ellen Carol DuBois
*DuBois examines a wide range of suffrage leaders and the other causes they championed.*

**All Bound Up Together: The Woman Question in African American Public Culture, 1830-1900**
by Martha S. Jones
*For three generations of black activists, the battle for suffrage goes beyond the 19th Amendment.*

**Display Ideas**

- Create a suffrage timeline from the Constitution to the Supreme Court ruling on the Voting Rights Act.
- Include a women's suffrage anniversary block on your library's web page and link to this reading list or a custom one.
- Print posters from the National Archives & Records Admin.’s Rightfully Hers project: [https://museum.archives.gov/rightfully-hers](https://museum.archives.gov/rightfully-hers).
- Create a voter resource page on your website that features voting education efforts geared towards young adults and connects teens with voter registration information.
- Make a Jeopardy-style board (poster board with paper flaps) with voting-related questions.

This list was created by a working group of staff and member leaders from ALA, AASL, ALSC, and YALSA in partnership with the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission.