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.

- **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.

Lifting as We Climb: Black Women’s Battle for the Ballot Box
by Evette Dionne
Dionne offers a long overdue examination of the roles black women played in suffrage movements throughout history and in the present day.

Chasing Freedom: The Life Journeys of Harriet Tubman and Susan B. Anthony
by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by Michele Wood
An imagined conversation sets the scene and helps connect two historical movements for readers.

Alice Paul and the Fight for Women’s Rights
by Deborah Kops
Alice Paul’s advocacy for women’s rights continued long beyond the passage of the 19th Amendment.

Rebel Voices: The Global Fight for Women’s Equality and the Right to Vote
by Louise Kay Stewart, illustrated by Eve Lloyd Knight
Readers take a global journey to discover powerful women and their out-of-the-box strategies to fight for equality and the right to vote.

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.

She Came to Slay: The Life and Times of Harriet Tubman
by Erica Armstrong Dunbar
In addition to her work on the Underground Railroad, Harriet Tubman was a fierce suffragist and advocate for women’s rights.

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.

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.

Amazons, Abolitionists, and Activists: A Graphic History of Women’s Fight for Their Rights
by Mikki Kendall, illustrated by A. D’Amico
This wide-sweeping look at women’s movements across the globe is both celebratory of impact and frank about obstacles that remain.

Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence
edited by Kate Clarke Lemay
Famous and unknown activists appear side by side in a thoughtfully woven together yet diverse collection of portraits, narratives, essays, photographs, and memorabilia.

Jailed for Freedom: A First-Person Account of the Militant Fight for Women’s Rights
by Doris Stevens
This memoir by a militant suffragist was first published in 1920 and has been updated with a new forward and archival illustrations.

Why They Marched: Untold Stories of the Women Who Fought for the Right to Vote
by Susan Ware
Meet a diverse group of nineteen lesser-known advocates whose grassroots activism made a significant impact.

The Woman’s Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote
by Elaine Weiss
Political maneuvering, deals, and promises drove the final votes for women’s suffrage as Tennessee became the final state to ratify 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.
- 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.