

# WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY -AUGUST 26TH

Although there is no proclaimed heritage in August, Women's Equality Day is celebrated annually on August 26th. This is the anniversary date of the certification of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, which first gave women the right to vote. This day in 1920 was the result of 72 years of campaigning by a massive civil rights movement. Prior to these movements, "respected thinkers such as Rousseau and Kant believed that a woman's inferior status in society was completely logical and reasonable; women were 'beautiful' and "not fit for serious employment.'" Rosa Parks, Eleanor Roosevelt and others have certainly proved those beliefs to be false.

**WOMEN'S FOUNDATION**  
of Greater Saint Louis

SAVE THE DATE

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**  
Women's Foundation of Greater St. Louis **2019**

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2019**  
5:30 NETWORKING | 6:45 PROGRAM  
RITZ CARLTON, SAINT LOUIS

**HONOREE**  
CLAIRE McCASKILL  
Claire McCaskill is a former US Senator – the first woman to be elected to that role from Missouri – and a current NBC and MSNBC political analyst.

**FEATURING**  
TIFFANY DUFU  
A catalyst-at-large in the world of women's leadership and the author of *Drop the Ball*, a memoir and manifesto that shows women how to cultivate the single skill they really need in order to thrive: the ability to let go.

**HONORARY CO-CHAIRS**  
HEATHER HUNT-RUDDY  
RAMONA BEHSHAD, MD

With special recognition of Vivian Eveloff, a founder of the WFSTL, the National Women's Political Caucus – St. Louis, Founder and Director of the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life at UMSL.

REGISTER ONLINE AT [WWW.WFSTL.ORG](http://WWW.WFSTL.ORG)

## RESOURCES AND EVENTS

Women's Equality Day 5k on 8/26:  
<https://www.evensi.us/womens-equality-day-5k-pavilion/319164679>

Civic Engagement Workshops:  
Appointments Project on 8/21:  
<http://www.wfstl.org/events>

Equality Day Brunch on 8/24:  
[https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/files/2019/07/MOWO-Net\\_eq-day-brunch\\_Reg-form-web19.pdf](https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/files/2019/07/MOWO-Net_eq-day-brunch_Reg-form-web19.pdf)

League of Women Voters STL:  
<http://www.lwvstl.org/>

Community Engagement  
Resources:  
<http://www.wfstl.org/community>

Elected Officials Look-Up:  
<https://www.mo.gov/government/elected-officials/>

Learn About Pay Equity and  
Discrimination:  
<https://iwpr.org/issue/employment-education-economic-change/pay-equity-discrimination/>

Although the 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote nationally on August 18, 1920, it was not made official until certified by the correct government official, Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby. Colby signed the proclamation behind closed doors at 8:00 AM in his home in Washington, DC. While asked by women's suffrage leaders Alice Paul and Carrie Chapman Catt to allow groups to witness the signing event, Colby merely told

reporters at the New York Times that “effectuating suffrage through proclamation of its ratification by the necessary thirty-six States was more important than feeding the movie cameras.”

The observance of August 26 also calls attention to the continuing efforts toward full equality. Groups supporting women’s equality today provide women worldwide with equal opportunities to education and employment and to resources to fight violence, suppression, discrimination and stereotyping which continue to occur in our society and in other countries.

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## SEVEN AMAZING WOMEN OF COLOR WHO HAVE HELPED FIGHT FOR GREATER EQUALITY FOR WOMEN <sup>1</sup>

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**Sojourner Truth** (1796-1883): Famous for her 1851 speech “Ain’t I a Woman.”

**Ida B. Wells** (1862-1931): An investigative journalist and suffragist who campaigned tirelessly for anti-lynching legislation. Her activism began in 1884 when she refused to give up her train car seat, leading to a successful lawsuit against the train company.


**Dorothy Height** (1912-2010): The “Godmother of Civil Rights,” she is known for her work on the desegregation of schools, equal pay for women and voting rights.

**Patsy Mink** (1927-2002): The first woman of color and first Asian American elected to Congress and also one of the co-authors of Title IX (sex discrimination in education).

**Dolores Huerta** (born 1930): An advocate for Latino rights, she is famous for organizing the 1965 Delano Grape Strike with Cesar Chavez.

**Wilma Mankiller** (1945-2010): The first woman to hold the position of chief of the Cherokee Nation. She was known for improving the lives of Cherokee people in many aspects, such as employment, education and health.

**Vanzetta Penn McPherson** (born 1947): An active participant in the civil rights movement. After attending Columbia Law School, she started her own private practice and later became a magistrate judge. McPherson was dedicated to protecting the rights of working women and African Americans.



“SOCIETY AS A WHOLE BENEFITS IMMEASURABLY FROM A CLIMATE IN WHICH ALL PERSONS,  
REGARDLESS OF RACE OR GENDER, MAY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN RESPECT,  
RESPONSIBILITY, ADVANCEMENT AND REMUNERATION BASED ON ABILITY.”

Sandra Day O’Connor