

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Event Announcement November 10, 2019

Votes for Women: A Celebration of Our Heroines

[York, Maine, October 27, 2019] — The public is invited to join in a 100th anniversary celebration of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution. On Sunday, November 10th, the York Diversity Forum is throwing a party from 4 to 6 PM at the Old York Museum Center at 3 Lindsay Road in York. There will be historic readings, special music by Joyce Andersen, tea sandwiches and cider and a scrumptious centennial cake.

The 19th Amendment prohibits states from denying the right to vote based on sex. It was passed by the House of Representatives on May 21, 1919. The years 2019 and 2020 span the centennial year of the passage of the amendment, during which support of the required 36 states for ratification was taking place. It was ratified by the State of Maine on November 5, 1919. The 36th state to ratify was Tennessee on August 18, 1920, making it the law of the land.

Despite the Amendment's simple language, gaining the vote for women was anything but simple. The road to ratification was fraught with obstacles and dangers for the suffragettes. The struggle lasted for 72 years and threatened the lives of the suffragists and their families and supporters. Opponents thought it endangered women, children, morals, family life, the race relations of the time, the economy and the nation as a whole. The November 10th event will be a tribute to the courage and determination of the women of the suffrage movement.

The event will include selected readings of the actual words spoken by suffrage leaders in the course of the fight. Their voices will be recited by actors, York High School students and community members: Lydia Blume, Olivia Davis, Maggie Hamel, Sandra Kaddy, Melanie Kyer, Pastor Effie McAvoy, Sarah Palmer, Holly Sargent, and Amelia Vetter. Narrators will be Sandell Morse and Evelyn Finucan. Participants will hear the words of Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt, Sarah Moore Grimke, Alice Paul, Anna Howard Shaw, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth and Ida B. Wells.

The public is invited to join the celebration on November 10th. There is no charge for the event. Special Suffrage Calendars will be available for a \$10 donation. For more information about this and future events in the year-long series, visit the events page at yorkdiversityforum.org.

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