

On this day...

# June 25, 1919 — Massachusetts Ratifies the 19th Amendment



On June 4, 1919 Congress approved the 19th Amendment and forwarded it to the states for ratification.

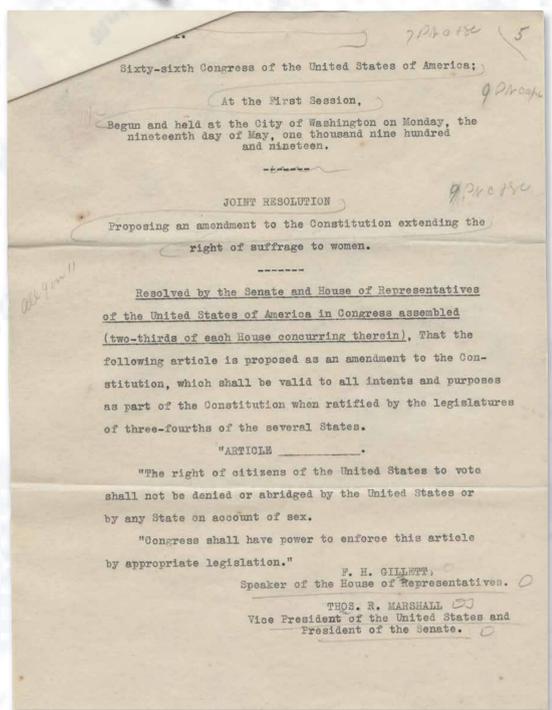


The official text of the 19th Amendment was sent to Massachusetts under this cover. MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES

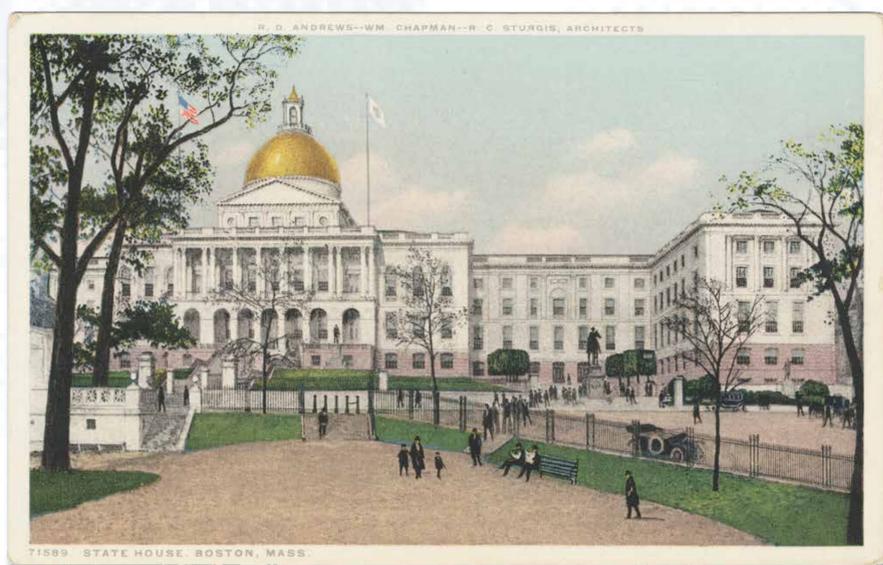
*“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”  
19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution*

## Legislative Hearings

At the Massachusetts State House the documents were referred to the legislative Committee on Federal Relations. Nearly 500 people, mostly women, attended hearings in the newly built East Wing. Advocates wore yellow marigolds. “Anti-suffragists” wore red roses. On June 14th, the *Boston Globe* reported that the morning was given to advocates, while the “antis” had their “innings” in the afternoon.



A second page transmitted the wording of the 19th Amendment. MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES



Period postcard of the Massachusetts State House painted white to match the new east and west wings constructed of marble and granite. STATE LIBRARY OF MASSACHUSETTS

True colors: yellow marigolds for suffragists, red roses for anti-suffragists during legislative hearings. Yellow was the preferred color for suffragists nationally. Some wore yellow roses or sunflowers.



The Massachusetts Senate approved the amendment on June 19th. June 25th would be the date of the final debate and vote in the House.

COMMONWEALTH  
MUSEUM

William Francis Galvin  
Secretary of the Commonwealth

SUFFRAGE  
100 MA

# Making History



After years of advocacy and debate over women's suffrage, Massachusetts became the 8th state to ratify the 19th Amendment on June 25, 1919.

*“In this State from now on, our entire efforts will be concentrated upon securing ratification in other states.”*  
 Agnes H. Morey, Massachusetts Chairman of the National Woman's Party



Alice Paul.  
 LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

### Point...

In the months before the final debate both sides had been organizing. Alice Paul came to Boston for a ratification rally. She had gained national recognition for radical protest and had endured hunger strikes and forced feeding in jail.

**Miss Paul to Speak at Ratification Rally**  
 Miss Alice Paul, chairman of the National Woman's party, is coming to Boston Wednesday night, when she will speak at the ratification rally to be held in Ford Hall. Miss Paul, who is the leader of the organization that planned and carried out the militant demonstrations of the suffrage movement, will make her first appearance in Boston at the meeting.

Boston Post, June 17, 1919. BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Counter Point...

On May 13, 1919 the Boston Globe reported “Socialism, Bolshevism and woman suffrage were bundled together at a protest meeting at Tremont Temple last night.” One speaker alleged that women voters in Russia had made children the property of the state.



Tremont Temple. JUSTIN DONNELLY



The Boston Post, June 26, 1919  
 BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



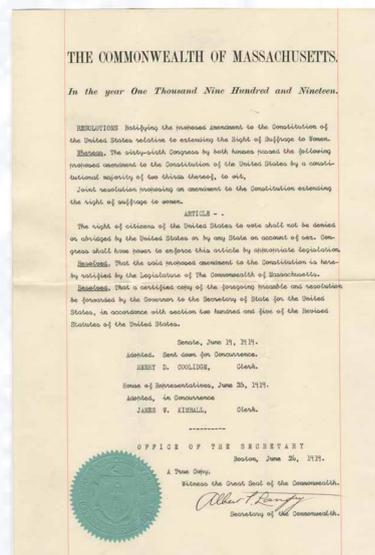
The Boston Post, June 26, 1919  
 BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

## At the State House

The week of June 25th was dangerously hot in Boston. Newspapers reported that one person had died from the heat and five were “prostrated.” The House gallery was reserved entirely for women that day. An equal number of tickets were passed out for suffragists and anti-suffragists. More suffragists than anti-suffragists attended.

## Roll Call

A final anti-suffrage attempt failed on the House floor. It would have delayed the vote in favor of a state wide referendum. On a roll call vote, the amendment passed 185-47. After the final vote there was silence in the galleries for a moment until members of the House began to applaud on the floor. Women in the galleries responded with cheers and applause. House Speaker Joseph E. Warner smiled while banging the gavel in a mock call for order.



Making it official: Massachusetts ratifies the 19th Amendment. MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES

Massachusetts was the 8th state to ratify, but women would not have the right to vote until August 1920, when the requisite 3/4th of the states had also ratified.