

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



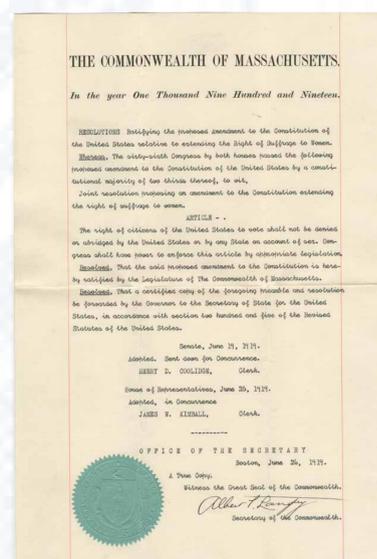
The Boston Post, June 26, 1919
 BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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.