

PARAMOUNT  
EDUCATION

PRESENTS

A black and white photograph of a large group of women, likely suffragettes, standing on the steps of a building. They are dressed in early 20th-century fashion, including long dresses, blouses, and various styles of hats. The women are arranged in several rows, filling most of the frame. The building behind them has stone steps and a doorway.

# CITIZENS AT LAST

## TEXAS WOMEN FIGHT FOR THE VOTE

© ET Films LLC and Mo-ti Productions LLC

*Citizens At Last*® is a registered trademark of Ellen C. Temple, used with permission.

# About the Film

*Citizens at Last* is a documentary film that tells the story of the grit, persistence, and tactical smarts of the Texas women who organized, demonstrated, and won the vote for women. Texas became the first state in the South and the ninth in the nation to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment. *Citizens at Last* elucidates the crucial role Texas women played in the long struggle for equal voting rights. The words of Suffragist, Jane Y McCallum, captured the thrill of voting for the first time after a long, hard fight, whether for the passage of the 19th amendment in 1920, or the Voting Rights Act in 1965, when she wrote,

**“With what high hopes and enthusiasms women stepped forth into a world in which they were citizens at last!”**

## Nancy Schiesari, *Producer, Director, Writer*



Nancy Schiesari is an experienced director, producer and cinematographer on both broadcast documentaries and award-winning independent films. Her latest full-length documentary, *Canine Soldiers: the Militarization of Love*, premiered at the Austin Film Festival and aired nationally on PBS over Memorial Day weekend, 2018. Nancy is a professor in production in the Radio–Television and Film Department at the University of Texas at Austin. In 2010, she founded MO-TI productions, dedicated to making films with diverse talent committed to telling stories from new perspectives.

[www.motiproductions.com](http://www.motiproductions.com)

## Ellen Temple, *Producer*



Ellen C. Temple has been involved with researching, writing and publishing about Women in Texas History for 50 years, including writing columns for the Diboll Free Press and publishing two pioneering books: *Citizens at Last: the Woman Suffrage Movement in Texas*, edited by Judith MacArthur and Ruthe Winegarten, and *Jane Y. McCallum: Diaries and writings of a Texas Suffragist* by Janet Humphrey. It was her understanding that the exciting story of the Texas fight for woman's vote has remained largely invisible that led her into documentary filmmaking, ET Films, and the production of *Citizens at Last* with renowned filmmaker Nancy Schiesari.

## Karen Bernstein, *Consulting Producer*



Karen Bernstein, recently lauded at DocNYC 2019 and SXSW 2020, and prior to that with *Richard Linklater – dream is destiny* at the Sundance Film Festival 2016, enjoys collaborating with other stellar directors and producers on furthering their own projects. In her role as a series producer for *American Masters* and producer of *Ella Fitzgerald – Something To Live For* (1999), Bernstein received a national Emmy award for Outstanding Non-Fiction Series. For producing *Lou Reed – Rock and Roll Heart* (1998), she received a Grammy award.

## Laura Furman, *Writer*



Laura Furman is the author of four short-story collections, two novels, and a memoir. Her latest book is [The Mother Who Stayed: Stories](#). Her short stories have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Southwest Review*, *The American Scholar*, *Subtropics*, *Yale Review*, and elsewhere. She is the recipient of fellowships for her fiction from the New York State Council on the Arts, Guggenheim Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, and the Paisano Project, and has been awarded residencies by The American Academy in Rome, The Liguria Study Center (Bogliasco), and Yaddo.

# Why is voting so important?

In our country, people's vote helps determine many crucial issues that directly impact our lives. We don't just vote for presidents but also governors, mayors, local officials, school boards, and even specific laws. When someone is voted into one of these positions, it can affect things like how much money your school gets, how much you get paid, or simply what you are allowed to do.

Imagine all these decisions are being made, but you have no say in it, even when it directly affects you. **How would you feel if you weren't allowed to help make those decisions?**



# Citizens at Last Vocabulary Crossword

## DOWN

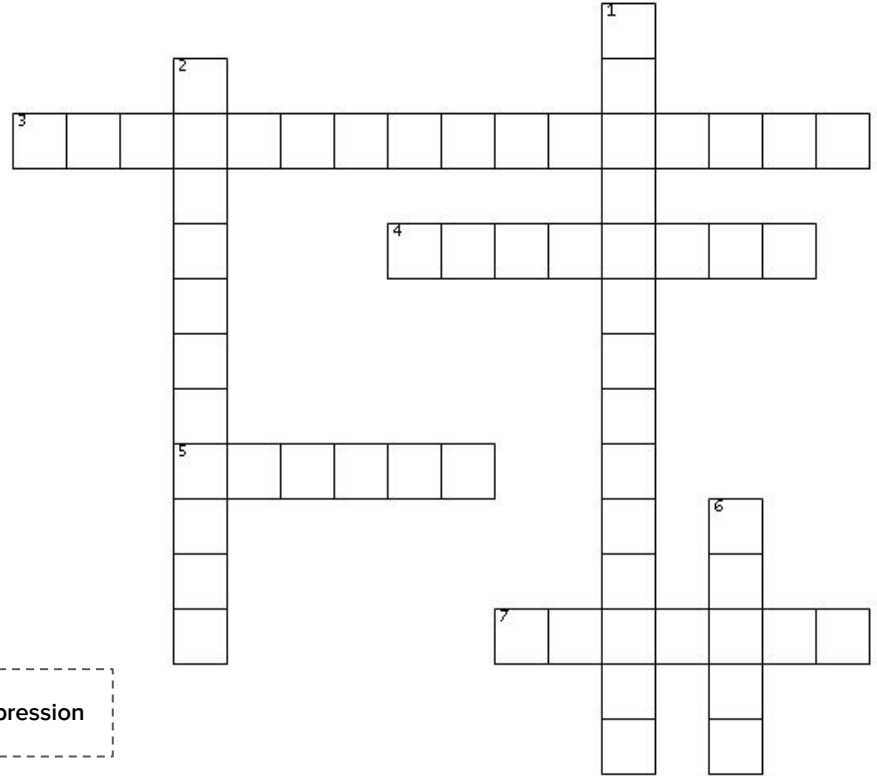
1. The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people or things, especially on the grounds of race, age or sex.
2. An organized body having the authority to make laws for a political unit.
6. A civil rights organization in the United States, formed in 1909 as an interracial endeavor to advance justice for African Americans.

## ACROSS

3. A strategy used to influence the outcome of an election by discouraging or preventing specific groups of people from voting.
4. The right to vote in political elections.
5. A Mexican American inhabitant of southern Texas.
7. An election to select candidates to run for public office.

Primary Discrimination Suffrage NAACP Tejano Legislature Voter Suppression

[Answers on Slide 28](#)





# TESA vs. NAWSA

The National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) was the organization pushing for women's voting rights on a national level. The Texas Equal Suffrage Association (TESA) was the state chapter of NAWSA and focused on suffrage for **Texas** women. Why two? Well, states can make their own laws that sometimes go against the federal law. So it was important that they fought for suffrage at the national **and** state level.

**Let's look at what else operates like this. Can you fill in the state or national equivalent in each row?**



State Level	National Level
	The President
The Supreme Court of Texas	
	The U.S. Army
Constitution of Texas	

[Answers on Slide 28](#)

# Timeline of State vs. National Voting Legislation

Here is a timeline of state and national decisions being made, sometimes in conflict with one another.



TESA formed.

**1903**



Texas ratifies the 19th amendment.

**1919**



Texas creates white primaries, preventing Black men and women from voting in primary elections.

**1923**



U.S. Congress passes the Voting Rights Act

**1965**

**1890**

NAWSA Formed



**1918**

In Texas, women are allowed to vote in the primary election.



**1920**

¾ of the state legislatures in the U.S. ratify the 19th amendment, making it federal law.



**1944**

U.S. Supreme Court bans the white primary law in Texas. Voter suppression still rampant on communities of color for the following decades.



## The Suffragists

Let's learn more about the suffragists that fought for women's right to vote. Then, we'll test your memory with a fun activity at the end!

A black and white photograph of three women standing on a balcony. They are dressed in early 20th-century attire. In the foreground, a large sign is visible, reading "NATIONAL AMERICAN WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASS'N".

NATIONAL AMERICAN  
WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASS'N

# Minnie Fisher Cunningham



- President of TESA from 1915-1918.
- Her leadership helped women win the right to vote in primary elections two years before the ratification of the 19th Amendment.
- Moved to Washington DC in 1919-1920 to work for NAWSA.
- Part of the team who persuaded President Woodrow Wilson and members of Congress to pass the 19th Amendment.
- In 1928, she was the first Texas woman to run for U.S. Senate, and in 1944, she was a candidate for governor.

# Christia Daniels Adair



- Took action after learning that Texas allowed political parties to keep Blacks from voting in primaries.
- Joined the Houston NAACP in 1925. She was the executive secretary when they fought the U.S. Supreme Court and ended the barring of Blacks from party primaries.
- Helped desegregate Houston's public library, airport, veterans' hospital and city buses.
- Helped give African Americans the right to serve on juries and work county government jobs.

# Annette Finnigan



- Suffragist, businesswoman, and philanthropist.
- In 1903, her and her sisters launched suffrage leagues in Houston and Galveston, organized in other cities, and co founded the Texas Woman Suffrage Association, which later became TESA.
- Recruited Minnie Fisher Cunningham, the energetic president of the Galveston league, to conduct an organizing tour. Mentored Cunningham's leadership skills.

# Mariana Folsom

**MARIANA T. FOLSOM,**  
STATE LECTURER OF THE  
**Texas Equal Rights Association.**  
WILL LECTURE IN THE

---

**Night.**

---

Admission Free. Collection Taken

---

**PRESS NOTICES:**

She does nothing for effect, but solicits her audience without a conventional effort.—Waldfield (Mass.) Banner.

A most apt and eloquent address.—Union (N. Y.) Patriot.

She is a lady of fine cultivation, speaking without noise, and has few equals in originality, lucidity and command of Texas English.—Chronicle (La.) Free Press.

Her address was eminently brief and well managed, and her sentences were clear and to the point, exposing her sentiments in English language. Waco (Tex.) Examiner.

The subject was well treated and presented in every phase. Galveston (Tex.) News.

Her address was appropriate for all of ages as well as tongues and her audience of two people cheered her most heartily. Lampasas (Tex.) Correspondent of Houston Post.

Figure: Wiry; Elegant. She is one of the most convincing, instructive and eloquent speakers who has ever lectured in Texas. Dallas (Tex.) Herald.

She delighted her hearers. Dallas (Tex.) Herald.

It was a dignified and intelligent discussion of the subject. Jacksonville (Fla.) Investigator.

Her remarks were clear and to the point, exposing her sentiments in English language. Waco (Tex.) Examiner.

The subject was well treated and presented in every phase. Galveston (Tex.) News.

Her address was appropriate for all of ages as well as tongues and her audience of two people cheered her most heartily. Lampasas (Tex.) Correspondent of Houston Post.

- Traveled to Texas and delivered more than 60 lectures in 1884.
- Founded the Texas Equal Rights Association in 1893 and convened 83 meetings across the state the following year.
- In the early 1900s, she focused on educating lawmakers and found a champion in state Rep. Jess A. Baker, who introduced suffrage legislation in 1907, 1911 and 1917.

# Jovita Idár



- Born in Laredo. Worked as a teacher, journalist and political activist.
- Joined her family's Spanish-language newspaper, La Crónica, which featured stories on discrimination and lynchings of Mexican-Americans, as well as pro-suffrage articles.
- As the first president of La Liga Feminil Mexicanista, Idar led efforts to provide education for indigent children
- In 1916, began publishing a newspaper, Evolución, which featured regular articles supporting women's suffrage.



# Maude Sampson



- Co-founded the Black Women's Civic and Enfranchisement League in El Paso in 1918.
- Lifelong member of the El Paso NAACP. Served as vice president from 1917 to 1924.
- Chaired a committee dealing with public housing shortages and black homeowners' property values. Also played a role in desegregating Texas Western College (now UTEP).

# The Suffragists Quiz

Type your answers to the statements below on the next slide. Do it letter-by-letter and the underlined letter in each name will vertically spell out the answer to this statement:

In 1918, when women won the right to vote in the Democratic primary, 1500 Black women registered to vote in \_\_\_\_\_ County, however, when they arrived to the polling station they were denied.

1. This suffragist was a part of the Houston NAACP.
2. As president of the La Liga Feminil Mexicanista, this suffragist wrote and published pieces advocating for women's suffrage.
3. This suffragist traveled all over Texas to spread the word about women's suffrage.
4. This suffragist was the first Texas woman to run for U.S. Senate.
5. This suffragist was Minnie Fisher Cunningham's mentor.
6. This suffragist served as Vice President of the El Paso NAACP

## WORD BANK

Maude Sampson

Jovita Idar

Minnie Fisher F

Annette Finnigan

Mariana Folsom

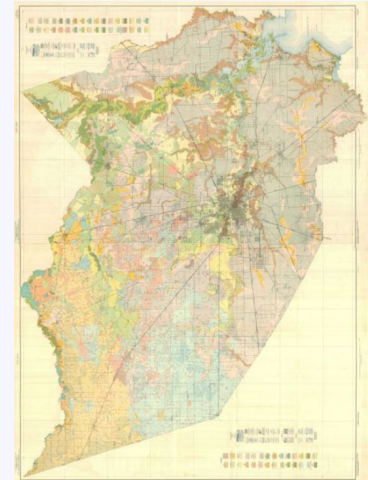
Christia Adair

# The Suffragists Quiz

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

is the county that is home to Houston, TX, the most populous county in Texas, and third most populous in the U.S.

[Answers on Slide 28](#)

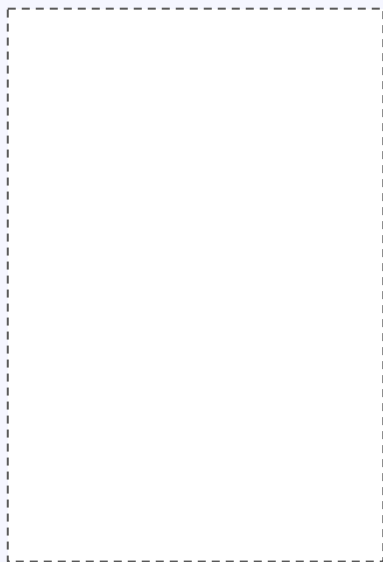


# Fight For Your Right!

After learning about these Texan suffragists, let's imagine we are suffragist in this time period!

Imagine social media existed during this time period.  
Fill out your suffragist social media profile!

If you were fighting for equality back then, what  
would you write on your banner?



Draw your Suffragist!

Name:

Location:

Bio: When it comes to voting  
rights, I believe that

---

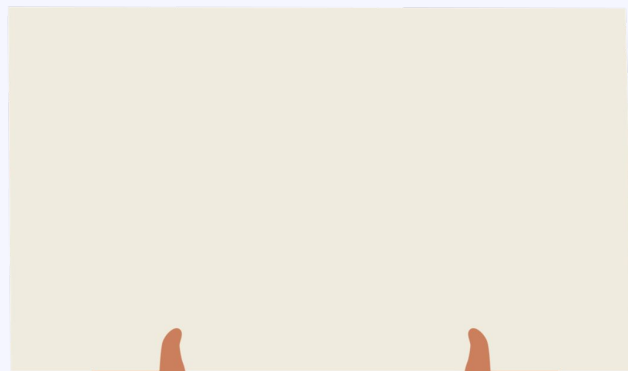
I believe this because

---

Occupation:

Favorite Suffragist from History:

Favorite Book:



# Ratification Requirements

In order for an amendment to be officially written into the Constitution,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the states must ratify it. In 1920, there were 48 states in the U.S.

Can you figure out how many states were needed to ratify the 19th amendment?

Do you know which two states were not a part of the U.S. yet?

[Answers on Slide 28](#)



# Suffrage for Women of Color

The 19th amendment of 1920 may have said that women could now vote, however, many women of color were still excluded from the ballots. The majority of Asian, Black, Latinx, and Native American women waited decades longer until they were granted suffrage. The achievement of passing the 19th amendment was not seen as an end for many.

**“We need to see the 19th amendment as part of a longer discussion. Not all women got to vote in 1920 when the 19th amendment is passed. These battles continue.”**

- **Jessica Brannon-Wranosky, Ph.D.** Historian, Texas A&M University, Commerce



# What do you know about voter suppression after the 19th amendment?

Voter suppression would continue for many years, partly because states still had power over how they ran elections. They found unjust ways to keep communities of color from voting such as literacy tests, poll taxes, property-ownership requirements, or grandfather clauses. Additionally, African-Americans often risked enduring harassment, intimidation, or violence when trying to register or vote.

**Let's see what you know about voter suppression during this time period. If you're stuck on a question, use the links on the next slide as a resource!**

# What do you know about voter suppression after the 19th amendment?



In 1965, law enforcement violently attacked hundreds of marchers marching from Selma to Montgomery to exercise their right to vote, despite a segregationist system keeping them from doing so.

**What is the nickname of this event in history?** If you need help with the answer, then click [here](#).



The same event was also televised for the country to see, which greatly pressured the signing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. **Which president signed this act into law?** Hint: He succeeded JFK and was sworn into office while on Air Force One. If you need help with the answer, then click [here](#).



# What do you know about voter suppression after the 19th amendment?

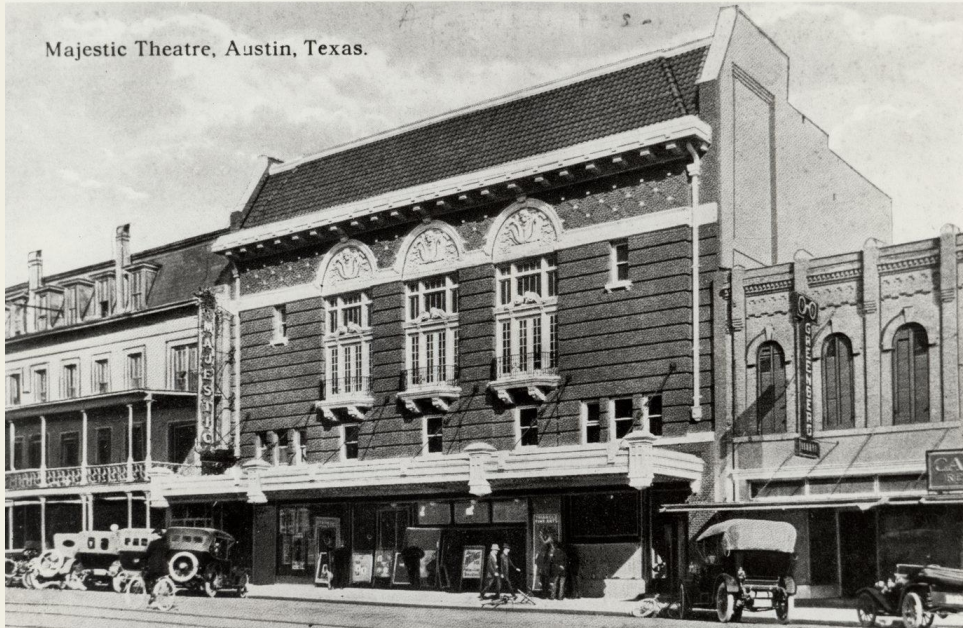


In 1971, 18 year-olds were drafted for the war but were not old enough to vote, which upset them. The 26th amendment lowered the voting age from 21 to 18. **What war was happening in 1971 that sparked this amendment?** If you need help with the answer, then click [here](#).



For a long time, voting was only done in English. This created a barrier for many non-English speaking voters. **Congress expanded the Voting Rights Act to protect language minorities from voting discrimination in what year?** If you need help with the answer, then click [here](#).

# The Paramount Theatre in 1920



The Paramount was under its original name, The Majestic Theatre. It was just 5 years old and tickets were less than a dollar. Vaudeville shows were the most popular. They included comedians, musicians, dancers, and magicians, all in one show. The theatre also showed silent films along with a live orchestra.



Still image from *Citizens at Last*, showing a march down Congress Avenue in 1917, passing the Majestic Theatre.

# More Resources

## Library of Congress Classroom Materials: Women's Suffrage

<https://www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/womens-suffrage/>

## Citizens at Last Website

<https://www.citizensatlastfilm.com/>

## Texas State Historical Association (TSHA)

<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/projects/texas-women>

## Register to Vote

<https://www.rockthevote.org/>

# Answers

## Vocab Crossword

1. Discrimination
2. Legislature
3. Voter Suppression
4. Suffrage
5. Tejano
6. NAACP
7. Primary

## TESA vs. NAWSA

1. The Governor
2. The U.S. Supreme Court
3. The Army National Guard
4. The U.S. Constitution

## Secret Answer

1. Christia Adair
2. Jovita Idar
3. Mariana Folsom
4. Minnie Fisher
5. Annette Finnegan
6. Maude Sampson

**Secret Answer: HARRIS**

## Ratification Requirements

1.  $\frac{3}{4} \times 48 = 36$  states
2. Hawaii and Alaska

## Voter Suppression After the 19th Amendment

1. Bloody Sunday
2. Lyndon B. Johnson
3. The Vietnam War
4. 1975

# About The Paramount Theatre

**The Paramount Theatre** was built over 100 years ago in 1915. Back then, Congress Avenue was a dirt road and the automobile was a new invention. As one of the first examples of early theatre architecture, the Paramount has been bringing Austin families together for generations. When you visit the theatre, you enter a place that feels exciting and welcoming. From your seat, you can almost reach out and touch the performers on stage! Many famous people have performed at the Paramount. From magician Harry Houdini to the premier of the original Batman movie, the Paramount and its audiences have seen it all over the past 100 years...here's to the next century!



# About Paramount Education

We inspire the intellect and imagination of young people by providing opportunities to experience, perform, and learn through the arts. We can't wait to see you again at our theatre or in our school programs! Paramount Education programs are made possible through generous donations from our community. [Learn more about us](#) or [make a donation](#). Thank you!



The image shows the interior of a grand, ornate theatre. The stage is dominated by a large, vibrant red curtain. The architecture is highly detailed, featuring gold-colored carvings, arches, and a balcony with decorative railings on the left. The ceiling is also intricately decorated with circular patterns. The lighting is warm, highlighting the textures and colors of the interior.

Take a virtual tour of the  
Paramount Theatre now!

# Thank you to our 2022-2023 Education Partners



Diane and Jim Cano  
ECG Foundation  
Carol K. Engler Foundation

ET Films LLC  
Gerald N. and Helen B. McAllister Fund  
Mo-ti Productions LLC

Montandon Charitable Trust  
The Powell Foundation  
The Seawell Elam Foundation

The Speedwell Foundation  
Kristi and Blake Stanford  
Wayne and JoAnn Moore

Charitable Foundation  
The Wright Family Foundation



# Thank you to our 2022-2023 Theatre Partners

JUDY & PATRICK  
**CANTILO**

TAMARA & MATTHEW  
**KETTERMAN**

COFFEE-TEA  
**Anderson's**

 Ascension Seton  
**AUSTINmarathon**  
HALF MARATHON and 5K

**BWF**  
ben-white-florist  
78704

 **Cultural Arts**  
CITY OF AUSTIN  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
This project is supported in part by the Cultural Arts Division  
of the City of Austin Economic Development Department

 **Heritage Tourism**  
CITY OF AUSTIN  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

**DELL**  
Technologies

**DBC**  
DUBOIS BRYANT & CAMPBELL

**GARRISON  
BROTHERS**  
*Distillery*

**KUT** **90.5**  
AUSTIN'S NPR STATION

**kutx98.9**  
THE AUSTIN MUSIC EXPERIENCE

  
**LONGHORN**  
SPORTS PROPERTIES

LEARFIELD  


NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
for the **ARTS**  
arts.gov

 Texas  
Commission  
on the Arts

  
**Velocity**  
CREDIT UNION

# PARAMOUNT EDUCATION

Learn more about our education and family programs at:

**[austentheatre.org/education](https://austentheatre.org/education)**

