

## OVERTURNING OF ROE V. WADE IGNITES A NEW BATTLE IN WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT

In June 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade sparked national outrage. This dangerous and unprecedented move turned back the clock on women's rights and left the majority of Americans feeling fearful for what's to come. But in the same democratic spirit of past leaders who relentlessly stood up in the face of adversity, thousands of activists, community members and organizations came together to send the message that this fight isn't over.

In the immediate aftermath, hundreds of protests and rallies formed across the country as people from all walks of life came together to show their anger over the decision. Signs that read "Bans off our bodies" and "Abortion is health care" flooded the streets and chants of "My body, my choice" broke out among the crowds as they marched through their communities.<sup>1</sup>

While the right to choose is codified into New York State law, the Legislature still knew we needed to do more to protect abortion access and help the women across the country who are now living without this freedom. That's why we swiftly passed a legislative package that ensures our health care providers can provide safe, legal abortions without fear of legal repercussions. We also passed laws making our state a safe haven for women across the country seeking reproductive health care. In November 2024, voters approved the Equal Rights Amendment, a landmark measure that protects abortion rights and access to reproductive care by enshrining these protections in the New York State Constitution.

The trailblazers and barrier-breakers that we celebrate this month taught us that we have the power to change the course of history. We must continue to raise our voices and fight for the future we want for our country.



## WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS THROUGHOUT U.S. HISTORY:

A timeline of persevering, breaking  
down barriers and shattering glass ceilings



Courtesy of

Assemblymember Patrick J. Carroll

*Dear Friend,*

Every March, we celebrate Women's History Month by recognizing the women who refused to be silenced and challenged the status quo to help create a better America. From the suffrage movement to today, New York State has played a significant role in the battle for women's rights. In fact, the first women's rights convention took place in Seneca Falls in 1848, and the nation's first family planning center was opened in Brooklyn.

But the fight for gender equality is far from over. As women's rights remain under attack, New York State continues to step up and lead the charge against injustice by passing some of the strongest equal pay and reproductive rights laws in the nation.

This pamphlet highlights the history of women's rights movements in the U.S. I hope you'll join me in continuing the fight for equality. Remember, my office is here to assist you. If you have questions about this or any community issue, please don't hesitate to contact me.

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick J. Carroll".

Patrick J. Carroll  
Member of Assembly

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<sup>1</sup> nytimes.com/live/2022/06/24/us/roe-wade-abortion-supreme-court



### **1848 - Seneca Falls Convention**

After being turned away from the World Anti-Slavery Convention because they were women, Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton organized the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York. The convention was attended by nearly 300 people, many of whom were also involved in the abolitionist movement. The Declaration of Sentiments was drafted at the convention, calling for women's equality in politics, jobs, family, education, religion and morals, and spawned similar conventions throughout the country.



### **1851 - Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio**

Sojourner Truth gave her famous "Ain't I A Woman" speech, interweaving women's suffrage and African-American rights.

### **1880s-1920 - The Progressive Era begins**

As the battle for suffrage continued, women took on roles as social activists and political reformers to address poverty, government corruption and more. Some of the prominent figures of this era include Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Jane Addams and Margaret Sanger.



### **1920 - Ratification of 19th Amendment**

The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment is ratified, finally granting women the right to vote. However, many women of color, including Black, Native American and Chinese American women, still faced significant barriers to voting.

### **1923 - Equal Rights Amendment drafted**

Alice Paul drafted an Equal Rights Amendment for the U.S. Constitution, indicating that the fight for full women's equality was far from over.



### **1963-1980s - Second wave of feminism**

Betty Friedan released "The Feminine Mystique," selling 3 million copies in three years and inspiring women to challenge the traditional roles society pushed on them.

### **1972 - Passage of Title IX**

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 was enacted into law, prohibiting sex discrimination in education programs that receive federal support.



### **1973 - Supreme Court makes landmark Roe v. Wade decision**

The U.S. Supreme Court affirms a woman's constitutional right to an abortion.



### **1991 - The fight to create fair and safe workplaces gains momentum**

Anita Hill's sexual harassment case against Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas sparked an increase of reported cases and discussion of sexual harassment.



### **1992 - "Year of the Woman"**

Americans elect a record number of women to Congress

### **1993 - Ruth Bader Ginsburg became the second female justice of the Supreme Court.**



### **2006 - #MeToo Movement begins**

The #MeToo Movement was founded by Tarana Burke to support survivors of sexual violence, particularly young women of color from low-income communities.

### **2016 - Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton becomes the first woman to earn a major party's nomination for president.**



### **January 20, 2021 - Kamala Harris sworn in as the 49<sup>th</sup> Vice President of the United States**

Former Vice President Harris is the first woman, first Black person and first person of Asian descent to serve in that distinguished role.

### **April 2022 - Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson is confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court**

Ketanji Brown Jackson is the first Black woman to serve as a U.S. Supreme Court Justice.

