

# Road to Ratification

**May 21, 1919**

US House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the 19th Amendment.

**March 1920**

35 states adopted the amendment.

**June 4, 1919**

US Senate passed the 19th Amendment by 2 votes with strong opposition coming from Senators from Southern states. Their concerns included allowing African American women to vote and that the federal government would then be compelled to enforce the 15th Amendment.

**Summer 1920**

8 states rejected the amendment and 5 states had not yet voted.

**August 17, 1920**

The North Carolina Senate postponed debates on the 19th Amendment until the 1921 Session.



**August 26, 1920**

The 19th Amendment officially became part of the Constitution.

That afternoon, Carrie Chapman Catt, head of the National American Suffrage Association, was received at the White House by President Woodrow Wilson and the first lady, Edith Wilson.

Tennessee became the focus of both pro and anti-suffrage movements because it was one of the last states to consider ratifying the amendment making women's suffrage law.

**August 9, 1920**

Tennessee Governor Albert H. Roberts called a special session of the General Assembly to consider the issue

**August 18, 1920**

Tennessee approved the 19th Amendment by 1 vote. Twenty three year old, Representative Harry T. Burns, a dedicated anti-suffrage proponent, cast the deciding vote for passage after receiving a letter from his mother encouraging him to vote for ratification. She ended the letter encouraging her son to...

***"be a good boy and help Mrs. Catt put the 'rat' in ratification."***

After the amendment passed, Burns had to hide in the attic of the State Capital to avoid a mob of anti-suffragist lawmakers threatening to rough him up.

***It took 60 years for the remaining 12 states to ratify the amendment.***



Photo Courtesy of the State Archives of North Carolina.

In **1920**, The **League of Women Voters** was founded by **Carrie Chapman Catt**. In North Carolina, **Gertrude Weil** founded **the state chapter** of the League. The organizations worked to **inform and educate** women on their **rights** and **duties** as voters.

In **1971**, North Carolina **voted for** the **amendment** and **Mississippi** was **the last state** to adopt the amendment in **1984**.