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This [Women's History Month](#), we celebrate the women who helped shape history and championed the principles of our nation.

At the Bill of Rights Institute, we honor their legacy by providing resources that bring these stories to life in classrooms across the nation.

As we look forward to America's 250th birthday, we reflect on the women throughout history who fought to advocate for the promise of equality enshrined in the Declaration of Independence.

Explore our [Women's History Timeline](#), from the earliest days of the country, through and after the suffrage movement, and follow the impact of women who lead by example.

EXPLORE THE TIMELINE

March 23, 2025

Anniversary of Patrick Henry's "Give me Liberty or Give me Death" Speech



How did women throughout history use the principle of equality to secure the right to vote?



Women in Early America

How did [women exercise political influence](#) in colonial America and the early republic?

Influential women like Margaret Brent, [Mercy Otis Warren](#), and [Abigail Adams](#) advocated for women's voices in public life.

Early calls for women's equality came from [Judith Sargent Murray](#) and [Mary Wollstonecraft](#), and laid the groundwork for future women's rights movements.



A Movement Arises

By the early 1800s, Americans were grappling with what their new nation and founding ideals truly meant, including the role of women in society.

Women such as [Sarah Grimké](#) and [Catharine Beecher](#) challenged expectations of women's roles, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott organize the [1848 Seneca Falls Convention](#), which launched the formal women's rights movement.



Leading to the 19th Amendment

The women's suffrage movement gained momentum in the late 19th and early 20th centuries through the combined efforts of leaders like [Carrie Chapman Catt](#) and [Alice Paul](#).

After decades of struggle, the [Nineteenth Amendment](#) was ratified in 1920.

The amendment would increase [participation in political life](#)

Their efforts helped spark conversations about women's [education, legal rights, and participation](#) in civic life.

As women increasingly entered public life through social reform movements like [temperance](#) and education, the [women's suffrage movement](#) gained momentum.

throughout the century and beyond.

Exemplifying Voices in Community

The Bill of Right Institute's [MyImpact Challenge](#) contest highlights students actively engaged in service, volunteerism, or entrepreneurship in their communities. While the contest is open to all students ages 13-19, previous winners of the program highlight the impact of young women making a difference in their communities.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, BRI encourages young women with a civic-based service project to apply for MyImpact Challenge. The national contest is open until May 18th.



Rylee Brooke Kamahele, 2023 First Prize winner, lead relief efforts for the Maui wildfires through her nonprofit, The Catalyst's Club, which focuses on community service and youth leadership. She moderated social media pages to coordinate aid and keep the public informed, while her family actively participated in the relief work. Kamahele's efforts, fueled by her goal of creating a compassionate society, showcased her dedication to helping others and uniting her community in times of crisis.

[Read More](#)

Grace Liu, 2024 Second Prize winner, is using her voice by providing free research training through her nonprofit, Research to Empower (ReTE). The organization focuses on offering resources and classes to students, particularly from underrepresented backgrounds, to develop critical research skills and empower them to address community issues. Liu's efforts have reached 41 school districts in 21 countries, promoting academic opportunities and equity for all students.



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Interested in supporting programs like MyImpact Challenge? Donate Today!

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