



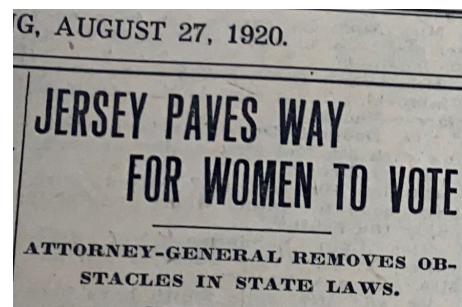
*A hub for the
History and Culture
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FLASHBACK

100 years ago in the

Somerset Democrat

August 27, 1920



JERSEY PAVES WAY FOR WOMEN TO VOTE

Attorney-General Thomas F. McCran this week paved the way for the women of New Jersey to vote at the coming primary and general elections in this State, provided the Tennessee ratification is accepted as final, when he gave a formal ruling that despite the wording of the State Constitution the women could enter into full suffrage rights with the adding of the nineteenth amendment to the National Constitution.Mr. McCran held that no amendment is necessary. He declared that the Suffrage Amendment to the Federal Constitution automatically annuls the word "male" in the State's fundamental law.

"...I am of the opinion that upon the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment, the word "male" in Section One of Article II. of the Constitution of this State will thereupon be annulled and rendered inoperative, and that all female citizens of the United States who are otherwise qualified under Section One of Article II. of the Constitution of this State and who comply with the provisions of our election law will be entitled to vote for all officers that then are, or thereafter may be, elective by the people of this State."

The appointment of [a] committee of ten, five women and five men, to conduct the State fight for the national and local tickets [was recently announced]. The appointment of the five women is the first time in the history of State politics that they have been given full authority and participation in the running of a State campaign.

[Editorial note: The pioneering appointees are as follows: Mrs. H. Otto Wittpenn, of Jersey City; Mrs. Walter Taylor, of Asbury Park; Mrs. Joseph L. Bodine, Trenton; Mrs. D. Steward Craven, of Salem; Mrs. Philip McKim Garrison, of East Orange.]

Meanwhile, at local theatres,
people were seeing the silent film,
"The Kid," starring Charlie Chaplin.

