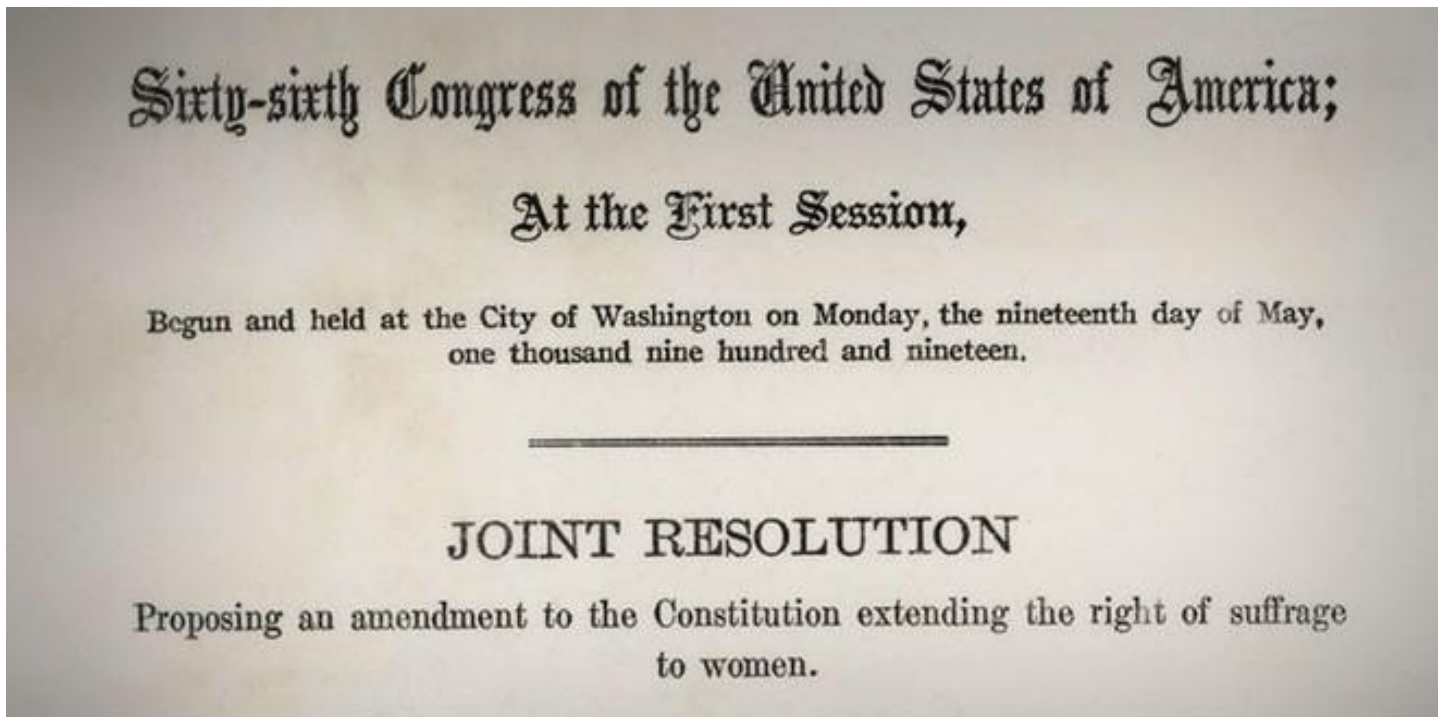


GOP: On the Right Side of History



19th Amendment – Women Vote

In January 1878, Republican Senator Aaron A. Sargent of California introduced the 29 words that would later become the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, allowing women the right to vote.

Sargent's wife, Ellen Clark Sargent, was a leading voting rights advocate, and a friend of such suffrage leaders as Susan B. Anthony. Unfortunately a bill calling for the amendment would be introduced unsuccessfully each year for the next forty years.

This three-decade period was known as "the doldrums", a period which the amendment was not considered by Congress and the women's suffrage movement achieved few victories.

After the Republican Party gained control of Congress in 1919, the Equal Suffrage Amendment finally passed the House in May of that year and in the Senate in June. The vote count in the Senate was 36 Republicans and 20 Democrats in favor, and 8 Republicans and 17 Democrats against.

The Amendment was submitted to the states with 26 of the 36 states ratifying the 19th Amendment having Republican legislatures. The 19th Amendment was finally ratified by three-fourths of the states a year later, with Tennessee's ratification being the last needed to add the amendment to the Constitution.

Women finally had the right to vote! (source: Wikipedia)