

## Women and the Republican Party

Democrats are great at playing the gender card, blaming Republicans for conducting a “War on Women”. They’re lying, of course, and Operation Wildfire is going to set the record straight.

For over 160 years, the Republican Party has been supported by – and supportive of – women. Let’s take a quick look at some milestones for women and the Grand Old Party.

We’ll begin with Susan B. Anthony, who was pivotal in women’s rights. Anthony was one of many who fought to gain women the right to vote in the United States. She spoke out to crowds about women deserving the right to vote and, even when she was to be put on trial for illegally voting in the 1872 election, she urged women to stand up for what was right.

When she attempted to vote in 1872, Anthony did so under the Republican Party. In fact, Susan B. Anthony proudly declared that she voted a “straight Republican ticket.” Another women’s rights activist, Judith Ellen Foster, founded the Women’s National Republican Association in 1888. Like Anthony, she urged women to take a stand in politics and go against the grain.

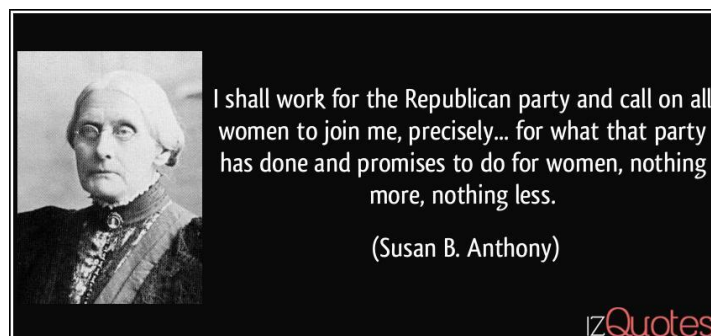
Now, as women across our nation prepare to celebrate the 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment – women’s right to vote – it’s time to tell the truth about its passage. It was the Republican Party, not the Democrats, which pioneered the right of women to vote.

In fact, the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment (also known as the Susan B. Anthony Amendment) was defeated four times by a Democrat-controlled Congress. When the Republican Party regained control of Congress in 1919, the Amendment finally passed the House in May of that year and in the Senate in June. And the final tally? Only 59 percent of House Democrats and 41 percent of Senate Democrats supported women’s suffrage. That’s compared to 91 percent of House Republicans and 82 percent of Senate Republicans.

When the Amendment was submitted to the states, 26 of the 36 states that ratified it had Republican legislatures. Of the nine states that voted against ratification, eight had Democrat legislatures. Twelve states, all Republican-controlled legislatures, had given women full suffrage even before the federal amendment was ratified.

And, on August 26, 1920, the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution was certified, enfranchising all American women and declaring for the first time that they, like men, deserve all the rights and responsibilities of citizenship – something the Republican Party recognized all along.

Yes, there was a “War on Women” – but it was led by the Democratic Party.



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The Republican Party was also the first major party to advocate the principle of equal pay for equal work. And that's what drew reformers like Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucy Jones to self-identify as Republicans.

The Republican Party has always focused not on what the Party is "doing" for women; instead, on using the talents and energies of any individual who wants to share in the work for the benefit of our country. Using the unique talents of women, the Republican Party has proven itself to be the party of opportunity, the party of true equality. Here are only a few milestones:

1854 – Three women attend the founding meeting of the Republican Party in Ripon, Wisconsin.

1860 – Republicans win the White House for the first time with the election of Abraham Lincoln, whose campaign was aided by prominent women such as suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

1872 – The first official recognition of women in a major party platform appears in the Republican Party platform.

1896 – The first equal rights of women plank carried in any major party platform is contained in the Republican Party platform.

1940 – The Republican Party becomes the first major political party to endorse an equal rights amendment for women in its platform.

In 1972, the Republican Party platform fully endorsed the principle of equal rights, equal opportunities, and equal responsibilities for women:

- Increasing resources devoted to enforcement of the Fair Labor Standards Act, providing equal pay for equal work;
- Requiring all firms doing business with the government to have affirmative-action plans for the hiring and promotion of women;
- Requesting Congress to expand the jurisdiction of the Commission on Civil Rights to cover sex discrimination;
- Recommending and supporting passage of Title IX of the Higher Education Act opposing discrimination against women in educational institutions;
- Supporting the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972 giving the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission enforcement power in sex-discrimination cases; and,
- Continuing to support the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

So you might be thinking, what have Republicans done for women lately? Most professors, journalists, celebrities and many Democrats will say "not much." They'd be correct. They're correct because the Republican Party treats women as it treats everyone – as equals.

The Democratic Party never has, and it still doesn't. Many times, today's Democrats treat women as victims who aren't capable of succeeding on their own. That's confirmed in an online poll, taken March 8, 2019, among 1,933 registered voters by Politico/Morning Consult. When asked "Do men have it better than women in this country?" More than half of Democratic voters (55 percent) believe men are better off than women in the United States – but only a fifth of Republicans shared that view. Why?

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Did a strong belief in the “glass ceiling,” the invisible barrier that prevents women from advancing, drive the Democrat response to the poll question? Or, can the Republican response be found in the American Dream and the belief that each of us has the right to find and define our own path to prosperity?

Or, perhaps the responses differed because women have been valued by Republicans and have broken through their own glass ceilings? There are many Republican women who have broken barriers; here are just a few with whom you may be familiar:

Sandra Day O'Connor	Supreme Court Justice
Amy Coney Barrett	Supreme Court Justice
Carla Hills	U.S. Trade Representative
Jeane Kirkpatrick	U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations
Barbara Franklin	Secretary of Commerce
Elizabeth Dole	Secretary of Labor
Gale Norton	Secretary of the Interior
Ann Veneman	Secretary of Agriculture
Elaine Chao	Secretary of Labor; Secretary of Transportation
Condoleezza Rice	Secretary of State
Nikki Haley	Governor, South Carolina; U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations
Kristi Noem	Governor, South Dakota
Kim Reynolds	Governor, Iowa
Gina Haspel	Director of the Central Intelligence Agency
Sarah Palin	Governor, Alaska and Vice Presidential Nominee
Margaret Chase Smith	U.S. Representative, U.S. Senator, Nominee for President

And don't forget the many Republican women who have served in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives, our State Assemblies, local governments and school boards. There are many Republican women who have worked, and continue to work, to benefit our nation.

The bottom line: As retired professor of political science and law at Vanderbilt University, Carol Swain notes, “...there is a party with a long history of sexism, but it ain't the Republicans.”

## What Can You Do?

Get Ready to Vote on November 2

Since 1860, the Republican Party has stood for women. This year, you have the opportunity to continue that legacy. It's time to take a stand and elect qualified women to sit as Judges on the Pennsylvania Courts; judges who will interpret the law, not legislate from the bench.

Superior Court	Megan Sullivan
Commonwealth Court	Stacy Wallace

And be sure to vote to retain these Judges:

Superior Court	Judge Mary Jane Bowes
Commonwealth Court	Judge Anne E. Covey and Judge Renee Cohn Jubelirer

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Help a teenager(s) who will be 18 on November 2 register to vote. October 18 is the last day to register before the November election. To register online, visit

<https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/VoterRegistrationApplication.aspx>

Start Centre County off on the right foot by calling in to the WRSC morning show (814-237-1390) to talk about Wildfire and the topics we've addressed thus far. Let's get Centre County Republicans motivated to go to the polls in November!

Pick a topic and write a Letter to the Editor of the Centre County Gazette and/or CDT. Help Operation Wildfire motivate Centre County Republicans to get to the polls.

Please pray for the people in Afghanistan – for the Americans left behind and for the Afghans who have helped our troops over the past twenty years.

*Sources: National Federation of Republican Women, Business Insider, Prager U, Salon, Marie Claire, The Daily Mail, Republican National Convention Platforms, Distractify, The Economist, The Examiner*