

CONSTITUTION AND CITIZENSHIP DAY

SEPTEMBER 17TH



Constitution Day, is an American federal observance that recognizes the adoption of the United States Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens. It celebrates the signing of the U.S. Constitution in Philadelphia on September 17, 1787

When the Constitution was ratified, women could not legally own land or property, and married women had no legal claim to their spouse's money or children. It was not until August 26, 1920 when the Nineteenth Amendment was added to the Constitution that white women were allowed to vote in elections at every level. However, obstacles like poll taxes, literacy tests and other discriminatory state voting laws would keep Black women (and men) disenfranchised for a further 45 years, until the Voting Rights Act was signed into law on August 6, 1965. It was not until 1943 and the passage of the Magnuson Act that Chinese immigrants could begin naturalizing as U.S. citizens.

The 19th Amendment states: *The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.*

In 1923, the 28th Amendment was first introduced. It states: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. This amendment has still not be added to the Constitution.

On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court ruled that the constitution does not provide a right to abortion. Roe v Wade was argued using the first, fourth, ninth, and fourteenth amendment and the Supreme Court at the time ruled the Texas anti-abortion statutes had been ruled unconstitutional as violating the constitutional right of privacy.

What 3 things you can do today that commemorates Women's Equality Day when women got the right to vote AND to get the 28th Amendment added to the Constitution

1. **Sign the petition to Leader Schumer: Schedule a vote on the Equal Rights Amendment**
https://actionnetwork.org/forms/sign-the-petition-to-leader-schumer-schedule-a-vote-on-the-equal-rights-amendment?source=2022ERAVote_ERAC&referrer=group-era
2. Contact Senator Brown and thank him for being a co-sponsor and ask him to urge Majority Leader Schumer to bring S.J. Res 1 to the floor for a vote when Congress returns in September. Call the Capital Switchboard at 202-224-3121 or **Send a message using NFBPWC's One Click Politics**. Go to: www.nfbpwc.org/event-4488922
3. Contact Senator Portman and ask him to co-sponsor and vote for removing the deadline for the ratification of the ERA. And, ask him to urge Majority Leader Schumer to bring S.J. Res 1 to the floor for a vote when Congress returns in September. Call the Capital Switchboard at 202-224-3121 or **Send a message using NFBPWC's One Click Politics**. Go to: www.nfbpwc.org/event-4488922

CALL TO ACTION: Commit to organizing a letter/post card writing event on or near Constitution Day – September 17th. All you need to do is:

1. Determine if you want to plan your own event or join the State-wide virtual event on September 15th at 7pm.
2. Notify Kathy Telban, Legislative Chair at BPWohLegChair@gmail.com which option you decide so you can coordinate with her about next steps.