



June 10, 2021

Old State Capitol to Unveil Suffrage Marker

BATON ROUGE, La. — Louisiana's Old State Capitol served as Louisiana's seat of government during the era of the fight for women's suffrage. In the late 1800s and in the early 1900s, female suffragists lobbied legislators to grant them the right to vote. A historic marker will be unveiled at 9:30 A.M., Tuesday, June 29 to commemorate the events that took place here. The marker will be near the River Road entrance.

On several occasions in the 1910s, the legislature debated a woman suffrage amendment to the state constitution. The most important debates occurred in May-June of 1920 when both a state suffrage bill and the federal 19th Amendment were up for a ratification vote. On June 29, 1920, women of all ages held a pageant to support the 19th Amendment on the grounds of the statehouse right before the final vote. Although the Louisiana Legislature rejected ratification of the 19th Amendment on July 1, 1920, women's suffrage became the law of the land when the 36th state voted in favor of it six weeks later.

Louisianans who fought for women's right to vote is the focus of the Old State Capitol's exhibit, *Louisiana's Lionhearted Ladies: Championing the Right to Vote*. Continuing to mark the centennial anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment, this exhibit will be displayed year long.

This marker was made possible thanks to the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. This is Louisiana's first marker on the National Votes for Women Trail, which commemorates the diverse people, places, and events important to passage of the Nineteenth amendment in 1920 across the U.S.

Louisiana's Old State Capitol is operated under the direction of Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin. The Museum is open Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free.



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