

100 YEARS OF SUFFRAGE IN THURSTON COUNTY

The Isabella and George Bush family along with the Michael Simmons family were the first settlers in Puget Sound, coming to Tumwater in November, 1845.

The 1850 Donation Land Claim Act provided 640 acres of land to married white couples with 320 acres held in the name of the wife. This meant women were able to own property in their own name instead of their husband's name, a progressive provision of the law for its day. Since George Washington Bush was African American, the 1850 Donation Land Claim Act did not apply to him and his wife, Isabella. It was not until 1855 that the Bush family felt secure in their land holding, when the United States Congress passed "An Act for the Relief of George Bush, of Thurston

County, Washington Territory" which gave "one-half [of the 640 acres] to the said George Bush, and the other half to his wife. . . ."

Many of the early settlers in the Olympia/Tumwater area had Quaker backgrounds; they were abolitionists, and their wives were suffragists. Despite the early settlers' background, the newly formed Washington Territory failed by one vote to give women the vote in 1853.

In 1867, the Washington Territorial Legislature passed a law giving "to all white citizens above the age of 21" the right to vote. Many Thurston County women suffragists saw this as giving women the right to vote since the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution defined citizens as all persons born or naturalized in the United States.

In 1869, Mary Olney Brown was unsuccessful in her attempt to vote at a school election in Grand Mound. However, her sister and a group of other women successfully voted in 1870 after hosting a picnic supper for election officials. Mary Olney Brown spoke at the picnic. In 1871, perhaps spurred on by the successful 1870 vote, Abigail Scott Duniway invited Susan B. Anthony to come to Washington Territory to help local suffragists in their quest for universal suffrage.

Women had been allowed to vote in some school elections, since a "woman's sphere of influence" included children and family matters; however, the right was not universal. In 1877, the right of women to vote in Washington school elections was granted to women tax-payers by the

Washington Territorial Legislature.

The growth of the Women's Club movement helped many women learn organizational and parliamentary skills they could apply to their suffrage efforts. Mary Olney Brown and Clara Sylvester, another prominent Olympia suffragist, founded the Women's Club of Olympia, the first women's club in Washington, in 1883.

The 1880's in Washington Territory saw women granted suffrage on three different occasions only to have the bills declared unconstitutional by the Territorial Supreme Court, with the last decision made in 1888. The following year women's suffrage was omitted from the State Constitution. . . . *to be continued in the Thurston County General Election Voters' Pamphlet.*

1854 1867 1869-70 1871 1875 1877

Washington Territorial Legislature rejected women's suffrage by one vote.	Right to vote given to "all white citizens above the age of 21."	Suffragists' votes rejected in White River but successful in Thurston County.	Susan B. Anthony, Abigail Scott Duniway and others come to work on suffrage. Bill narrowly rejected.	Women's suffrage bill defeated by a vote of 11 for and 15 opposed.	Law adopted enfranchising taxpaying women in school meeting elections.
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MARY OLNEY BROWN



WE VOTE! WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Washington is celebrating the 100 year anniversary of Women's Suffrage. This timeline is part 1 of 2. The conclusion of Women's Suffrage will be in the General Election Voters' Pamphlet.

CLARA SYLVESTER




1878 1881 1883 1884 1886 1887

State Constitutional Convention excluded women's suffrage, and two separate ballot issues were rejected as part of the vote on the State Constitution.	Women's suffrage bill adopted by the House but lost in the Council.	Territorial Legislature bill for women's suffrage signed by Governor William A. Newell.	Territorial Supreme Court reaffirmed women's suffrage allowing women jurors.	Territorial Legislature clarified wording allowing women to vote.	Harland vs. Washington - Territorial Supreme Court revoked suffrage due to technicality.
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Illustrations and cover artwork done by 15-year-old Alyssa Howell, a freshman at Yelm Middle School. Alyssa is also related to another famous woman in Washington history, Dixie Lee Ray, the first woman governor of Washington State from 1976-1980.

Ballot Drop Box Locations - Secure, Free, and Convenient!!!

Lacey Area	Olympia Area	South County	North County
Fire 3, Station 34 (Mushroom Corner) 8407 Steilacoom Rd SE	Church of the Good Shepherd 1601 North St SE	Bucoda (Across from Liberty Market) 103 S Main St	Fire 7, Station 1 5046 Boston Harbor Rd NE
Fire 3, Station 35 3701 Willamette Dr NE	Gloria Dei Lutheran Church 1515 Harrison NW	Tenino School Administration 301 Old Highway 99 N	Fire 8, Station 1 3506 Shincke Rd NE
Lacey City Hall 420 College St SE	Olympia Fire Dept, Station 1 100 Eastside St NE	Southeast County	
Lacey Post Office (Mailbox island) 5815 Lacey Blvd SE	Westside Top Food (Parking lot, near Pier 1 Imports) 1313 Cooper Point Rd SW	Lackamas Elementary 16240 Bald Hill Rd SE	
Lacey Top Food (South parking lot by Taco Bell) 5600 Martin Way E	Thurston County Courthouse 2000 Lakeridge Dr SW * <small>*Auditor's Office, Bldg. 1, Rm. 106, is the only place to get a replacement ballot.</small>	Rainier City Hall 102 Rochester St W	
Woodland Retirement & Assisted Living Community 4532 Intelco Lp SE	Tumwater Area	Yelm School Administration 110 1st St N	
Steamboat Island Area	Fire 5, Station 1 (Black Lake Fire Station) 5911 Black Lake Blvd SW	Southwest County	Ballot Drop Boxes will be open on July 28. They are available 24 hours a day except for Election Night, August 17, when they are closed promptly at 8:00 p.m.
Fire 13, Station 1 3707 Steamboat Lp NW	Tumwater City Hall 555 Israel Rd SW	Grand Mound Center 19949 Old Hwy 99 SW	
	Tumwater School Administration Office 621 Linwood Ave SW	Littlerock Fire 11 10828 Littlerock Rd SW	
		Rochester Fire 1, Station 3 18346 Albany St SW	