



100th Anniversary

WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

Youth
Guidebook

PRESENTED BY THE
SAN ANTONIO 19TH AMENDMENT CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

www.100yearsOfWomenVotingSA.com

#100YEARSOFWOMENVOTING
#100AÑOSDEMUJERESVOTANDO

#SASUFFRAGISTS
#SASUFFRAGISTAS

#VOTINGWOMENMAKEADIFFERENCE
#MUJERESQUEVOTANIMPACTAN

San Antonio is celebrating women's access to the right to vote. The 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment occurs in August 2020. The San Antonio 19th Amendment Centennial Committee is excited for all youth – especially girls – to learn more about the process of amending the constitution and the efforts that take place to get an amendment ratified into law. We are celebrating the advances in history that came about from the suffrage movement and the women who led the movement. We also want children to learn that with the passage of the 19th Amendment, there were still many who were discriminated against and rights that were not equal. However, the 19th Amendment was a significant step for women's civil rights in our country. We encourage children to learn more about the history of women's suffrage, the 19th Amendment and the Civil Rights Act of 1965, and to think about the world they live in today. The Women's Right to Vote Youth Guidebook is intended to be a catalyst for conversation and to encourage children to learn more and take action to make our city a better place.

SAN ANTONIO 19TH AMENDMENT CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

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August 10, 2020

Dear Parent/School District,

Welcome back to the 2020-2021 academic school year. While you are all preparing on how to incorporate virtual learning, the San Antonio 19th Amendment Centennial Committee has been working on a grassroots initiative, celebrating the passage of the 19th amendment and celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Though the 19th amendment did not give all women the right to vote, it did provide the first step for all women to have this right. In recognition of this momentous anniversary, we invite you and your student(s) to participate in city-wide events from Sunday, August 16 through Wednesday, August 26. These events aim to educate our community on the impact of women and to celebrate all accomplishments that have come from the right to vote, including the work that remains to be done. Please visit www.100yearsofwomenvotingsa.com to learn more about activities happening around the city, educational resources such as books and videos, and our youth guidebook available to download.

The youth guidebook provides interactive opportunities for students to do at home or in the classroom. In addition, the San Antonio 19th Amendment Centennial Committee is hosting an essay contest for age groups 6-8, 9-12, and 13-18 years old (see page 8 for details). Winners are to be announced in September and prizes will include a Chromebook, Whataburger gift cards, H-E-B gift baskets, certificate, and the archival of the essay into the newly established National Institute of Mexican American History of Civil Rights at Our Lady of the Lake University. We also strongly encourage classrooms to host conversations around the importance of voting, how our communities are affected by the right to vote, and how different ethnicities view voting. Members of our steering committee are also available to talk to classes.

Lastly, we encourage everyone to wear white during this week to help celebrate and socialize this momentous occasion. Thank you for your participation and sharing of events, contest and hosting these conversations in your homes, classrooms, and other spaces. We wish you an amazing, healthy and safe school year!

Best,

San Antonio 19th Amendment Centennial Committee

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

Our mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers struggled for many of the rights and privileges of citizenship that we take for granted today. The suffrage (right to vote) movement was unique in that it was the first time women across the nation had petitioned on their behalf.

If you opened a dictionary and looked up the word “suffrage,” you would find that it means the right to vote. Our country is a democracy identified by the phrase “one person, one vote,” yet the framework of our government did not originally give the right to vote to everyone. When the U.S. Constitution was drafted in Philadelphia in 1787, women were not included in the debates and discussions of how to govern the country. Participation in this new democracy did not extend past the white men who qualified by meeting various religious, property and taxpaying criteria. Black men were granted the right to vote in 1870 with the ratification of the 15th Amendment, but Black women were denied this right until the passing of the 19th Amendment in 1920. The first women’s rights convention was in 1848 at a meeting held in Seneca Falls, New York. Women and men came together at this convention and used the words of the Declaration of Independence to demand that women be afforded the right to vote. Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott and Frederick Douglass were some of the prominent names responsible for these initial actions. The 60 women and 32 men who signed their names to this document became the foundation of the suffrage movement.

During the 19th and 20th centuries, Black, Indigenous, Latina, and Asian women played an active role in the struggle for universal suffrage. But in spite of their hard work, many people didn’t listen to them. Black men and white women usually led civil rights organizations and set the national agenda. They often excluded Black, Indigenous, Latina, and Asian women from their organizations and activities. For example, the National American Woman Suffrage Association prevented Black women from attending their conventions. Black women had to march separately from white women in suffrage parades. Also, when Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony wrote the History of Woman Suffrage in the 1880s; they featured white suffragists while ignoring the contributions of African American suffragists. Though Black women are less well remembered, they played an important role in getting the 15th and 19th amendments passed.

Because of their unique position, Black women tended to focus on human rights and universal suffrage, rather than suffrage solely for African Americans or for women. Many Black suffragists weighed in on the debate over the 15th Amendment, which would enfranchise Black men but not Black women. Mary Ann Shadd Cary spoke in support of the 15th Amendment but was also critical of it as it did not give women the right to vote. Sojourner Truth argued that Black women would continue to face discrimination and prejudice unless their voices were uplifted like those of Black men. Other women of color were similarly active in the suffrage movement without benefit of the right to vote after the 19th amendment passed. For example, Dr. Mabel Ping-Hua Lee was a leader of the suffrage movement in New York City, but she was not able to vote until 1943 when the Chinese Exclusion Act, which prevented Chinese from becoming U.S. citizens, was revoked in 1943.

After the 19th Amendment was ratified in 1920, Black women voted in elections and held political offices. However, many states passed laws that discriminated against African Americans, Indigenous Americans, American Latina/os, and Asian Americans and limited their freedoms, including poll taxes and literacy tests. Black, Indigenous, Latina, and Asian women continued to fight for their rights. Educator and political advisor Mary McLeod Bethune formed the National

Council of Negro Women in 1935 to pursue civil rights. Tens of thousands of African Americans, Indigenous Americans, American Latina/os, and Asian Americans worked over several decades to secure suffrage, which occurred when the Voting Rights Act passed in 1965. This act represents more than a century of work by Black, Indigenous, Latina, and Asian women to make voting easier and more equitable.

Our local governments are based on the democratic process, of which voting is a primary principle. The social works and reform embraced by the early suffragists are continued by the many thousands of service hours given by women and girls across the United States of America.

WOMEN'S VOTE IN TEXAS

The question of whether women should be granted the privilege of voting rights was first raised in Texas during the Constitutional Convention of 1868-1869. The proposal was rejected by a vote of 52 to 13. As the women's suffrage movement became more organized over the next four decades, supporters realized that the issue was perceived to be more of a social threat rather than a political one. Many argued that enfranchisement would cause women to neglect their homes, children and other domestic responsibilities. It was up to the suffragists to articulate that women were citizens too and entitled to a say in governmental affairs. To generate support at the grassroots level it became vital to educate and inform public opinion in an accessible manner. Women's suffrage clubs sponsored lectures, conducted debates, organized essay contests, managed booths at fairs and department stores, marched in parades and wrote music, plays and newspaper articles to spread awareness.

While these efforts helped make women's enfranchisement an active issue, concrete results were not achieved until the governorship of William P. Hobby from 1917 to 1921. Texas suffragists had pledged support to Hobby during the election if he would push for the passage of a bill that would grant women the right to vote in Texas primary elections. Primary suffrage was a more realistic goal than full suffrage as it required only a simple majority of both legislative houses and the governor's signature. The bill passed by a wide margin and was signed into law on March 26, 1918, offering women the right to vote in the state of Texas.

By May 1919, Hobby recommended that the Texas Constitution be amended to offer full voting rights to women, but the amendment was defeated by a majority of 25,000 votes. On June 4, the U.S. Senate passed the "Susan B. Anthony" amendment, which stipulated that if three-fourths of the states ratified the amendment, women would have the vote nationwide. The Texas legislature convened in special session and Hobby placed the women's suffrage amendment on the agenda. By this point, women suffragists had become part of the mainstream, and despite some opposition, the amendment was approved by the Texas Senate on June 28, 1919. Texas became the **ninth state in the Union**, and the **first state in the South**, to ratify the 19th Amendment.



TIMELINE OF VOTING RIGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES

- Prior to **1789**, voting was restricted to white men who were property owners.
- **1789**: The [U.S. Constitution](#) grants the states the power to set voting requirements. Generally, states limited this right to property-owning or tax-paying white males (about 6% of the population).
- **1792–1838**: Free Black males lose the right to vote in several northern states including [in Pennsylvania](#) and [in New Jersey](#).
- **1792–1856**: Abolition of property qualifications for white men. The [1828 presidential election](#) was the first in which non-property-holding white males could vote in the vast majority of states. By the end of the 1820s, attitudes and state laws had shifted in favor of [universal white male suffrage](#).
- **1870**: The [15th Amendment to the United States Constitution](#) prevents states from denying the right to vote on grounds of "race, color, or previous condition of servitude." Black males in the northern states could vote, but the majority of African Americans lived in the South.
- **1887**: Citizenship is granted to Native Americans who are willing to disassociate themselves from their tribe by the [Dawes Act](#), making them technically eligible to vote.
- **1910**: From Texas, Mexican-born feminist Teresa Villarreal, who had fled the dictatorship of Porfirio Díaz, supported the Mexican Revolution, the Socialist Party, and women suffrage. With her sister Andrea, Villarreal published that state's first feminist newspaper, *La Mujer Moderna* (The Modern Woman), and *El Obrero: Periódico Independiente* (The Worker: Independent Newspaper) in 1910.
- **1911**: After the First Mexican Congress in Laredo, Texas, journalist Jovita Idar praised woman suffrage in *La Crónica* (the Chronicle), where she connected the vote to her longstanding demands for Mexican American civil rights. She then founded the League of Mexican Women.
- **1920**: Women are guaranteed the right to vote by the [19th Amendment to the United States Constitution](#). In practice, the same restrictions that hindered the ability of non-white men to vote now also applied to non-white women.
- **1924**: All Native Americans are granted citizenship and the right to vote, regardless of tribal affiliation.
- **1943**: Chinese immigrants are given the right to citizenship and the right to vote by the [Magnuson Act](#).
- **1961**: Residents of Washington, D.C. are granted the right to vote in U.S. presidential elections by the [23rd Amendment to the United States Constitution](#).
- **1964**: Poll Tax payment is prohibited from being used as a condition for voting in federal elections by the [24th Amendment to the United States Constitution](#).
- **1965**: Protection of voter registration and voting for racial minorities, later applied to language minorities, is established by the [Voting Rights Act of 1965](#). This is when all people were fully granted the right to vote in America.
- **1971**: Adults age 18 – 21 are granted the right to vote by the [26th Amendment to the United States Constitution](#). This was enacted in response to Vietnam War protests, which argued that soldiers who were old enough to fight for their country should be granted the right to vote.
- **1986**: The United States military as well as other citizens living on United States bases abroad, or aboard ships are granted the right to vote by the [Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act](#).

- **1996-2008:** Twenty-eight U.S. states changed their laws on [felon voting rights](#), mostly to restore rights or to simplify the process of restoration.
- **2006:** The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was extended for the fourth time by George W. Bush, being the second extension of 25 years.

Activities

Join businesses, parks and neighbors across the city in these activities to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment!

-  **WHITE RIBBON PROJECT:**
Tie a white ribbon on a tree, mailbox or porch from August 16-26 to honor the sisters of the women's suffrage movement.
-  **LIGHT THE NIGHT IN WHITE:**
Turn your porch light on August 18 to honor the women suffragists of the 1920s, known for wearing white to show their support for voting rights.

See a complete list of events, activities and resources at www.100yearsofwomenvotingsa.com.

SHOW US HOW YOU CELEBRATE THIS MILESTONE!

Post videos or pics to social media:

#100YearsOfWomenVoting
#100AñosDeMujeresVotando

#SASuffragists
#SASuffragistas

#VotingWomenMakeADifference
#MujeresQueVotanImpactan

CITY-WIDE ESSAY COMPETITION

Girls Inc. of San Antonio in collaboration with the San Antonio 19th Amendment Centennial Committee is hosting a city-wide essay competition to celebrate a big year in civic life.

WHO: All youth in San Antonio ages 6 – 18

Three winners for each of the groups listed below:

- 6 – 8 years old (50 – 100 words)
- 9 – 12 years old (200 – 450 words)
- 13 – 18 years old (500 – 750 words)

WHAT: Interview and Write an Essay

Students are asked to interview the oldest female in their family about their voting experiences. Who might that be? Perhaps your great grandmother, an aunt or cousin. Interviews can take place in person or telephone or Facetime. The idea is for you to interview your family member about what voting and being engaged in their community means to them.

WHEN: Submission Deadline

- Monday, August 31, 2020

WINNERS: Prizes and Judging

- A panel of judges will follow an anonymous judging protocol to review the essays and choose three winners for each age group.

1st place winners: Chromebook and the opportunity to interview a city leader

2nd and 3rd place winners: H-E-B gift basket, Whataburger gift card, and more!

In addition, all winners will receive a certificate, and their essay will be archived in the newly established National Institute of Mexican American History of Civil Rights at Our Lady of the Lake University.

- All winners will be notified in September 2020
- Entries will be judged, and winners chosen by a diverse panel of female leaders. The decisions of the judges are final.

HOW: To Enter

- Submit your essay (in English or Spanish) in a word document or PDF and email to Belen Plasencia at bplasencia@girlsincsa.org by August 31, 2020.
- Email submissions **must** include
 - Student's first name and last initial
 - Student's gender and age
 - Student's grade and school
 - Photo of the student and the person being interviewed (if possible)

- Email to bplasencia@girlsincsa.org
- Use “ESSAY CONTEST” in the subject line

Participating in the contest gives Girls Inc. of San Antonio, the San Antonio 19th Amendment Centennial Committee, and the National Institute of Mexican American History of Civil Rights permission to reproduce submissions (essay and photos) in marketing materials, social media, print, email, and other internal and external communications.

THEME: Inspired and Engaged in Civic Life

Girls Inc. of San Antonio in collaboration with the San Antonio 19th Amendment Centennial Committee is taking the opportunity to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. While 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment – an important occasion – it is also crucial to address the racial disparities of this milestone. For decades after the passage of the 19th Amendment, women of color struggled to exercise their right to vote because of legalized prejudicial practices that blocked them from casting ballots. Women across the United States fought for decades for the right to vote, finally achieving this goal in 1920. They encountered numerous obstacles across their long journey, both from other women and from more preeminent national politics. But such struggles did not end in the early 1900s. While the 19th Amendment did not enfranchise all women; it was a big step towards progress and equality. This historic centennial offers an unparalleled opportunity to commemorate a milestone of democracy and to explore its relevance to the issues of equal rights today.

The Essay Prompt: Learning your history is an essential tool, and a call to action. Learning about our past creates a path to building a better future. In the spirit of the many people who fought for voting rights throughout history – who is the first woman (*grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, sister, cousin, etc.*) that voted in your family? What were some of the obstacles they encountered in trying to vote? Discuss one challenge that you think is significant. The essay prompt is designed to encourage discussion and hopes to ignite the spark to inspire a thoughtful conversation.

Below are questions that can spark a lively conversation or create a new memory in unexpected ways! *You can use some the questions below or come up with your own. Don't forget to ask a parent if you do not understand the question.*

- What was the first election you voted in? How old were you?
- Where was your first election? In Texas? Somewhere else?
- When/what was your first memory of voting? How old were you and what motivated you to vote?
- Did you experience any difficulties to voting? How did you overcome those barriers?
- What did you think your life would be like when you were older? If future generations of our family read this essay, what would you want them to know about voting and civic engagement?

- Consider the last hundred years after the 19th Amendment and how far we've come – how far do we still have to go? What do you hope to see change in the next 100 years?
- One hundred years later, the country is continuing to grapple with many of the same questions the suffragists raised; not only who gets to vote, but also what it means to be a citizen and how to ensure that all people are equal in the eyes of the law. And as we mark this centennial, why do you think we are still in the fight to find more ways to make our communities more inclusive and empowering?

STORY OF VOTING RIGHTS

Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas and the state-wide Women's Right to Vote patch offers this activity for teachers to facilitate in the classroom, in-person or virtually, as well as families to do at home.



Objective: To help children, especially girls, learn the history of voting rights in the USA.

Materials needed:

In-person:

- Small color papers (cut enough for each participant to have one). Make 30% blue, 10% green, 30% yellow, 10% orange and 20% red. For a group of 20, you would make 6 blue, 2 green, 6 pink, 2 orange and 4 red.
- Container for each participant to draw a paper from

Virtual:

- Each participant will need:
 - a small piece of white paper
 - a crayon or marker of each color (blue, green, yellow, orange and red)

Instructions:

In-person:

- Give each participant one colored paper (they take from the container without looking).

Virtual:

- Assign each participant a color (per the ratio under "in-person" materials above)
- With their assigned color, instruct participants to color a circle on their piece of paper

In-person or Virtual:

- As you lead participants in the discussion below, guide the group to pick one activity to do (ex: play a game, sing a song, etc.) once ALL participants are "allowed" to vote.
- Examples of activities to encourage participants to pick from may include:
 - Games such as Rock, Paper, Scissors; Simon Says; and Red Light, Green Light
 - Songs such as Wheels on the Bus; Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star; If You're Happy and You Know It, etc.

Discussion:

- State that according to the laws in the early years of our country, only the white men could vote. So only the participants with the **blue** paper could vote. Ask these participants to decide a game or song for all to do. Discuss if this is fair.
- Explain that after many years of hard struggle, culmination in the Civil War (1865-1877), free Black males won the right to vote. However, local poll taxes, "literacy" tests, and other discriminatory acts often prevented them from voting. Ask the participants with the **blue** and **green** pieces of paper to decide a game or a song for all to do. Discuss if this is fair.
- Explain that in 1920 after many years of struggle, some women won the right to vote. So add the participants with **yellow** papers to the participants who can vote. Again, ask these participants to decide on a game or a song for all to do. Discuss if this is fair.
- In 1924, Native Americans won the right to vote after finally being declared citizens of the USA. The participants with the **orange** paper can now be added to the participants who can vote. Again, ask this group to decide on a short activity for the group.

- Starting in the 1950s, there were some major changes in the voting laws, making poll taxes and other discriminatory acts illegal. There were larger-scale efforts to help register all eligible voters. Now all the votes are in, and the participants can learn what they voted to do.
- Discuss the idea of justice as equal rights for all. Are we all equal? Some people are richer, stronger, or better looking, and so forth, but justice exists when we all have equal rights.

Source: Adapted from “Teacher They Called Me A...!: Confronting Prejudice and Discrimination in the Classroom” by Deborah A. Byrnes. Appears in Women’s Right to Vote state-wide [patch](#), courtesy of Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas.

VOTING MYTHS

Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas and the state-wide Women's Right to Vote patch offers this activity for teachers to facilitate in the classroom, in-person or virtually, as well as families to do at home.



Instructions: Read each voting myth and discuss why it's a myth and what the facts related to the myth are.

Myth: It is hard to meet the voters' registration qualifications.

Fact: You can register to vote if you are:

- A United States citizen
- 18 years old by election day
- A resident of the state in which you are voting

Myth: Someone must register me.

Fact: You can register yourself. Fill out a registration form. Sign the form yourself. Registration must take place 30 days before an election to be eligible to vote in that election.

Myth: Forms are hard to get.

Fact: Forms are available at a variety of locations such as Post offices, libraries, fire stations, Department of Motor Vehicle offices, city and county offices. You can contact the Voter Registration Office in your county to get a form sent to your home. You can also register to vote online at www.usa.gov/register-to-vote.

Myth: Once I fill out the registration form, I am registered.

Fact: You are registered when you receive a voter registration card form from the Registrar-Recorder. It should arrive within 30 days.

Myth: If I do not vote in an election, I must reregister.

Fact: Registration at this time is permanent. You do not have to vote in each or any election to remain registered as long as you do not move out of the county you're registered in. However, you must re-register when you move, change your address, change your name, or wish to change political parties.

Myth: I can register for someone else.

Fact: You can only register yourself.

Myth: If I am away from my home county on Election Day, I cannot vote.

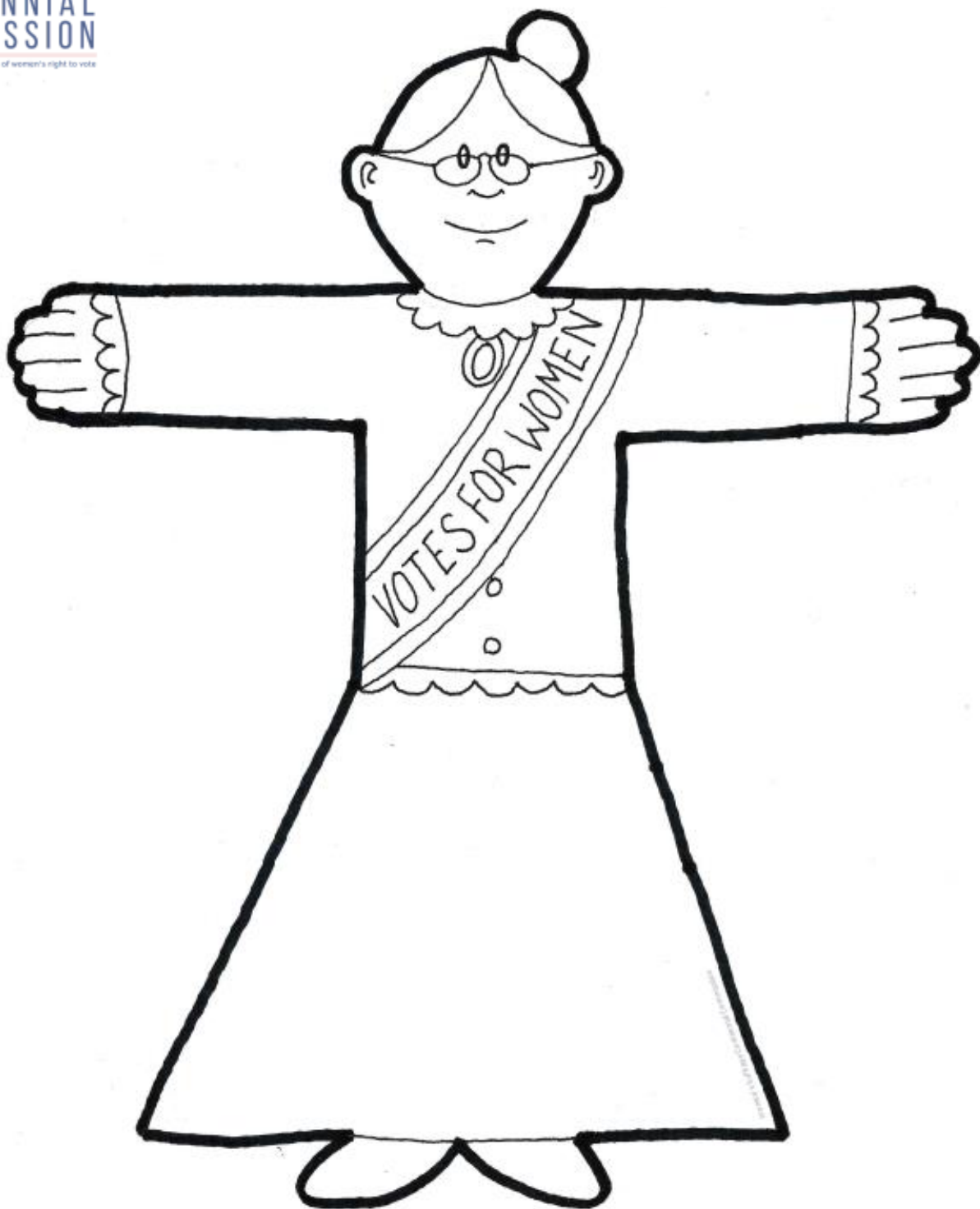
Fact: You can vote an absentee ballot. Contact your Voters Registration Office for information on how to register for absentee voting.

Myth: If I am disabled, I must still vote at a polling place.

Fact: You can vote by absentee ballot. Law establishes a Permanent Absentee Vote Status for those whose mobility is impaired. Call your county's Voter Registration Office to learn more.

Source: Women's Right to Vote state-wide [patch](#), courtesy of Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas.

FLAT SUSAN B.



“Flat Susan B.” is modeled after the famous suffrage leader Susan B. Anthony. Decorate, and take her to museums, historic sites, or classrooms as you learn about the history of women’s fight for their right to vote. *Don’t forget to post your pics to social media and use our hashtags below.*