



Republican History, Part 2: Fighting for women’s rights and winning

Did you know that the Republican Party pioneered the right of women to vote?

Or that it and was the first major party to advocate equal rights for women and the principle of equal pay for equal work?

Republicans championed, passed and signed:

- 19th Amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote (1920). Ratified by a majority of Republican states. Susan B. Anthony was a Republican.
- Equal Pay Act (1963) and Title IX (1972). Restricted Trans participation in Title IX in 2026.
- Pregnancy Discrimination Act (1978)
- Welfare reforms (1990s) that emphasized job training and employment pathways and helped many single mothers enter the workforce.
- Tax and regulatory reforms that expanded women-owned businesses' access to capital and reduced barriers for women entrepreneurs.

Get more details...

- **19th Amendment (1920):** Republican-led Congress passed women’s suffrage amendment, which was championed by Republican leaders and ratified by a majority of Republican states. (For more details on the history of women’s suffrage, visit the North Carolina Federation of Republican Women’s website: <http://www.ncfrw.com/History-of-Suffrage.html>)
- **The Equal Pay Act (1963)** which prohibited wage discrimination based on sex, and **Title IX (1972)** which expanded educational and athletic opportunities for women, were both signed by Republican President Nixon. In 2026, Republicans restricted Trans participation in Title IX.
- **Pregnancy Discrimination Act (1978):** Supported by Republicans, banning discrimination based on pregnancy in the workplace.
- **Welfare reform and work support (1990s):** Republican-backed reforms emphasized job training and employment pathways that helped many single mothers enter the workforce.
- **Women-owned small business support:** Republican tax and regulatory reforms expanded access to capital and reduced barriers for women entrepreneurs.
- **STEM and career training initiatives:** Republican lawmakers have backed programs encouraging women’s participation in science, technology and skilled trades.

Women's health (abortion):

- Republicans supported returning abortion policy to states, giving women a direct voice.
- The GOP backed informed consent and clinic standards that protect women's health.
- Republicans support alternatives to abortion, including adoption, prenatal support and assistance to pregnant women.
- Republicans put conscience safeguards in place for women healthcare workers who object to performing abortions.