NOTABLE EVENTS

February 12, 1870
Utah becomes the second state to pass legislation recognizing women’s right to vote in state and local elections.

February 14, 1870
Seraph Young of Salt Lake City becomes the first woman to legally vote in the modern United States.

March 3, 1887
The anti-polygamy Edmunds-Tucker Act becomes law; Utah women are denied the right to vote.

December 10, 1889
The Cache County Woman Suffrage Association is formed; 78 women join.

September 1890
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints publishes the Woodruff Manifesto, officially disavowing polygamy and paving the way for statehood.

March—May 1895
The Utah Constitutional Convention is held.

April 8, 1895
All of Cache County’s delegates vote to include women’s suffrage in the state constitution.

November 5, 1895
Utah’s male electorate approves the proposed state constitution. Cache County overwhelmingly votes to approve: 2,608 to 246.

January 4, 1896
The U.S. Congress grants Utah statehood; Utah women can once again vote in state and local elections.

August 18, 1920
The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified, prohibiting sex discrimination in voting. Women in Utah and across the nation can vote in federal elections.

June 24, 1924
The Indian Citizenship Act becomes law, granting Native Americans U.S. citizenship and voting rights; however, Utah continues to bar Native Americans living on reservations from voting.

June 27, 1952
The McCarran-Walter Act is enacted, giving Asian Americans citizenship and acknowledging their voting rights.

February 14, 1957
The Utah legislature repeals laws denying voting rights to Native Americans living on reservations.

August 6, 1965
President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act prohibiting racial discrimination in voting.

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For more information on women’s suffrage and voting rights in Utah, visit betterdays2020.com.
Mattie Hanson
Mattie Hanson was a well-known Logan woman who was highly influential in local politics. She was elected the second vice-president of the Cache County Woman Suffrage Association in 1889, as well as the first vice-president to the convention of the Cache County Democratic party in 1895. She gave multiple political speeches, including a speech at a July 8, 1895 Democratic meeting in Hyrum on women in politics.

Louisa Lula Greene Richards
Louisa Lula Greene Richards, Utah's first female newspaper editor, settled in Smithfield, Utah in 1869. After founding the Smithfield Sunday School Gazette in 1869, she moved to Salt Lake City to become the first editor of the Woman's Exponent in 1872. The Exponent was a highly influential newspaper for Utah women, touching on a multitude of issues including suffrage, religion, and women's education. Richards later penned the song "Woman, Arise" for the Utah Woman Suffrage Song Book, published by the Utah Woman Suffrage Association in 1891.

Mary Ann Weston Maughan
Mary Ann Weston Maughan was an advocate for women's causes as the first president of the Cache Valley Relief Society, a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints women's organization with ties to the suffrage movement. Her husband, Peter, was the chairman of the committee on elections for the territorial legislature and introduced the bill that first recognized Utah women's right to vote in 1870.

Adeline Hatch Barber
Adeline Hatch Barber, a Relief Society president in Smithfield, spoke at the founding meeting of the Cache County Woman Suffrage Association in 1889. A silk maker, she wove the black silk gifted to national suffrage leader Susan B. Anthony by a group of Relief Society women in appreciation for her help in securing the right to vote for Utah women. The dress Anthony had made from the material is on display at her home in Rochester, New York.