

# Petticoat Patriots Exhibit

*"How Michigan Women Won the Vote"*

The Brighton Area Historical Society will be presenting a reflection on the 100-year anniversary of the women's right to vote in Michigan

June 1 – August 23, 2019

CoBACH Center  
202 Main Street  
Brighton, Michigan



## History

The women's suffrage movement was a decades-long fight to win the right to vote for women in the United States. It took activists and reformers nearly 100 years to win that right, and the campaign was not easy: Disagreements over strategy threatened to cripple the movement more than once. But on August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was finally ratified; enfranchising all American women and declaring for the first time that they like men, deserve all the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.



## CoBACH Display

The Michigan Women's History Center has assembled 11 panels that describe the history of the suffrage movement in Michigan. The panels will be displayed at the CoBACH Center 202 Main Street in Brighton June 1 through August 23, 2019.



### Municipal Suffrage (1893-1911)

In 1893 the Michigan legislature granted women municipal suffrage permitting them to vote in city elections, but not in state or presidential elections. That summer, the Michigan Supreme Court declared the new law unconstitutional because the legislature had no authority to create a new class of voters. Once again, suffragists faced a demoralizing defeat.

Michigan held a Constitutional Convention in 1907 and Michigan suffragists worked to include women's suffrage on its agenda. In preparation for the Convention, the Michigan Equal Suffrage Association requested that women's clubs and labor unions across the state endorse women's suffrage.

Mary L. Doe of Bay City, a Michigan Equal Suffrage Association member, built a relationship between the working class and her organization's largely middle class members. Doe educated her organization on the plight of the working class and emphasized links between labor rights and suffrage. As a result, when Michigan held its Constitutional Convention, women's suffrage received labor union endorsements from organizations such as the Michigan Federation of Labor.



Although legislators inserted the word "male" into voter qualifications, they allowed taxpaying women to vote on tax and bond issues that affected their property. Michigan voters approved the proposed Constitution by a vote of 244,797 to 130,783.

"Votes for Women" float postcard, 1910.



GRAND RAPIDS MICH. EQUAL FRANCHISE CLUB

# Events at CoBACH Center 202 Main Street, Brighton

June 1– August 23, 2019

The events this summer will help all that attend to better understand the suffrage movement in the United States, Michigan and the City of Brighton.

**PETTICOAT PATRIOTS:**  
“How Michigan Women Won the Vote”

**FREE**

June 9, 2019 – 3pm  
Dr. Caitlyn Perry Dial

**SUFFRAGE DEBATE: “Yea or Nay”**

**\$10.00**

July 12 & 13, 19 and 20, 2019 @ 7:30pm  
July 14 & 21, 2019 @ 3pm  
Brighton’s Own Livingston Players  
[www.livplayers.org](http://www.livplayers.org) for ticket information

**EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT  
CELEBRATION**

**FREE**

August 18, 2019 @ 3pm  
Mona Shand (Rep. Slotkin’s Livingston  
County Liaison)

## Thank You

The Brighton Area Historical Society would like to thank the following sponsors and volunteers who have made this display and presentations possible.

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#### **Patriot Level:**

**MERRILL**   
A BANK OF AMERICA COMPANY  
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League of Women Voters

Carole and Jerry Damon  
Dr. Caitlyn Perry Dial  
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