

Equal Suffrage League of Virginia Records: Selected Timeline

ESL BRIEF TIMELINE

Nov. 1909	Equal Suffrage League of Virginia (ESL) organized
1910	ESL members began circulating a petition to present to the 1912 session of the General Assembly (“to propose and submit to the qualified voters for ratification an amendment to the Constitution of Virginia, whereby women shall have the right of suffrage....”)
Dec. 1910	ESL state convention held in Richmond
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Jan.–Feb. 1912	ESL members spoke to General Assembly committees in favor of woman suffrage, but House of Delegates defeats a proposed amendment by a vote of 85 to 12
Feb. 1912	Virginia Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage (VAOWS) organized
Oct. 1912	ESL state convention held in Norfolk
1912–1915	ESL officers, especially president Lila Meade Valentine, vice president Elizabeth D. Lewis, and novelist Mary Johnston, speak in localities around the state and help organize local leagues
Mar. 1913	ESL members and more than 100 Virginians participate in the national suffrage parade in Washington, D.C.
Oct. 1913	ESL state convention held in Lynchburg
Feb. 1914	ESL members speak to General Assembly committees, but House of Delegates rejects a suffrage resolution by vote of 74 to 13
May 1914	ESL Suffrage Day demonstration held at Capitol Square
Oct.–Dec. 1914	ESL publishes <i>Virginia Suffrage News</i>
Nov. 1914	ESL state convention held in Roanoke
May 1915	ESL Suffrage Day celebration at Capitol Square
June 1915	Virginia branch of Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage organized (later becomes the National Woman’s Party)
Dec. 1915	ESL state convention held in Richmond; also participates in meeting of the Southern States Woman Suffrage Conference
Jan.–Feb. 1916	ESL members speak to General Assembly committees, but House of Delegates rejects proposed suffrage amendment by a vote of 52 to 40

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March 1916	Virginia Republican Party support woman suffrage in its platform
Nov. 1916	At ESL state convention held in Norfolk members agree to advocate a federal suffrage amendment to the U.S. Constitution
Jan.–Feb. 1917	ESL holds suffrage school in Richmond
Apr.–June 1917	Eudora Ramsay travels around the state to organize ESL chapters
June 1917	National Woman’s Party pickets at the White House begin to be arrested and imprisoned in the D.C. workhouse at Occoquan, Virginia
1917–1918	ESL members participate in war work during WWI
Nov. 1917	ESL state convention in Richmond
1918–1919	Faith Morgan, Mary Elizabeth Pidgeon, and others travel around Virginia enrolling suffrage supporters to show level of support for woman suffrage
Nov. 1918	ESL cancels state convention as a result of influenza epidemic
June 1919	Congress approves sending a constitutional amendment guaranteeing woman suffrage to the states for ratification
Aug.–Sept. 1919	A special session of the General Assembly refuses to ratify the proposed federal suffrage amendment
Nov. 1919	ESL state convention held in Richmond
Jan. 1920	ESL officers and Carrie Chapman Catt address the General Assembly; it does not ratify the proposed federal suffrage amendment, but does approve a “Machinery Bill” to allow Virginia women to register to vote if the amendment was ratified before the November 1920 general election and also takes the first step to approve a woman suffrage amendment to the state constitution
Aug. 1920	Nineteenth Amendment is ratified
Sept.–Oct. 1920	Virginia women register to vote
2 Nov. 1920	Virginia women vote for the first time
Nov. 1920	ESL dissolves and reorganizes as the Virginia League of Women Voters



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