



NAACP
Pennsylvania
STATE CONFERENCE

PRESS RELEASE

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Allegheny County

CONTACT: Kenneth L. Huston
412-287-9507

Email: pastatepresident2019@gmail.com

VALIANT WOMEN IN THE FIGHT TO VOTE!

In 2020, the nation celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution which prohibits the states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to citizens of the US based on sex. This means that in August 1920, women won the right to vote.

Very often when the names of women are given as part of the woman suffrage movement, African American women such as Mary Church Terrell, Sojourner Truth, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Fannie Barrier Williams, and Ida B. Wells-Barnett among others are often omitted. However, their battle was always combined with race and civil rights and deserves to be noted. There were women such as Sojourner Truth, an emancipated slave in upstate New York, who was the first known African American suffragist. Then there were others such as Harriet Forten Purvis, a founding member of the Philadelphia Females Anti-Slavery Society and in 1854 helped organize the Philadelphia Suffrage Association; Mary Church Terrell, who was a writer, educator, suffragist and civil rights activist and one of the founders of NAACP; and Ida B. Wells-Barnett, a journalist, newspaper editor, suffragist, civil rights leader, and also one of the founders of NAACP.

As African Americans, there are still those subtle actions that are cause for us to pause in making sure that all is fair and equitable when it comes to the right to vote. With the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, everyone will have to be even more diligent in making sure that registered voters have the same and correct information, the poll places are checked, that the new information regarding Act 77 is distributed, and that any changes in dates and other information are properly announced for all to be aware. I have no doubt that the League of Women Voters will be at the forefront of these efforts. NAACP Units let us all do our part in making sure that everyone has the appropriate information necessary to make the best decisions regarding selecting candidates at the primary election which in Pennsylvania is now scheduled for June 2, 2020. Continue to honor the women of today who endure to take the lead and enhance the lives of us all. Our vote is uplifting our voice loud and clear!

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Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest nonpartisan civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities. The Pennsylvania State Conference was established in 1934 and pursues the same mission throughout the Commonwealth.