

- Activist and writer Ida B. Wells-Barnett first became prominent in the 1890s because she brought international attention to the lynching of African Americans in the South. She protested the exclusion of African Americans from the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago and three years later she helped launch the National Association of Colored Women (NACW). In 1909 Wells was a founding member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She also actively campaigned for women's suffrage.
- Mary McLeod Bethune was the most prominent African American in the Franklin Roosevelt Administration. Bethune was instrumental in integrating the Red Cross, increasing public awareness of lynching, voter discrimination in federal elections, and segregation on interstate trains and buses. In 1949 she was appointed by President Harry S. Truman to lead the US delegation to Liberia to observe the inauguration of President William V.S. Tubman. In 1951, she served on President Truman's Committee of Twelve for National Defense.

Failure to Garner / Protect Voting Rights of All Women

- 1924: Indian Citizenship Act was passed, granting all Native Americans born within the United States citizenship. Many states continued to deny Native peoples the vote for residing on a reservation, tribal enrollment, taxation, and incompetency.
- 1942: Japanese Internment effectively disenfranchised the majority of the 120,000 Japanese Americans forcibly relocated and held in internment camps.
- 1952: McCarran-Walter Act was passed, granting all Asian immigrants the ability to become fully naturalized citizens and therefore be allowed to vote.
- 1965: Voting Rights Act passed, banning the use of literacy tests, providing for federal oversight of voter registration in areas where less than 50 percent of the non-white population had not registered to vote, and authorizing the U.S. attorney general to investigate the use of poll taxes in state and local elections.

For more resources exploring this history and our collective opportunity to do better, please visit:
seattlelwv.org/racism_in_womens_suffrage

Join us at an upcoming event:

March Forum: Women's History Month

Thursday, March 7 at 7:00 pm
 Atlas Workbase
 500 Mercer Street, Seattle, WA 98109

Hear from elected officials, activists, and professional women who making King County a more livable and vibrant community and breaking down barriers for all women.

Voices of Democracy Awards Dinner

March 27, 2019 at 7 p.m. (cocktails at 6 p.m.)
 The Palace Ballroom
 2100 5th Avenue, Seattle

Featuring special guest Sally Jewell. We are seeking nominations for awardees. If you know an individual or organization who has helped King County residents find and raise their voices with respect to democracy and civil discourse, please email us with your suggestions.

Ticket information is on the website.



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Exploring Racism in the Women's Suffrage Movement

HONORING THE 19TH AMENDMENT'S CENTENNIAL THOUGHTFULLY

FEBRUARY 7, 2019 FROM 7 - 8:30 P.M.

at

SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
 1111 HARVARD AVENUE
 SEATTLE, WA 98122

We are grateful for the sponsorship of this event by
 the ACLU of Washington and KNKX.



Empowering voters. Defending democracy.

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County is a nonprofit, nonpartisan political organization that encourages active and informed participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Forum Agenda

7 p.m. Welcome & Announcements.

Stephanie Cirkovich, President, League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County
Alyssa Weed, Program Chair and 2nd Vice President, LWVS-KC

7:10 p.m. Panelists Presentations

- Debora Juarez, Seattle City Councilmember
- Jamila Taylor, Attorney
- La Rond Baker, Assist. Attorney General
- Christy Wood, Moderator

8:15 p.m. Audience Q & A

8:30 p.m. Closing Remarks



Seattle City Councilmember Debora Juarez, an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Nation, made history when she was elected to the Seattle City Council's District 5 seat in 2015. Councilmember Juarez became the first citizen of an indigenous nation to be elected to the Council in the City's 150-year history. Debora went to law school at the University of Puget Sound and built a 31-year career as a public defender, legal-aid lawyer, a King County judge, a Native American affairs adviser for two governors, and counsel for Northwest tribes.



Jamila Taylor, BlackPast.org Founding Board Member & Attorney, is a longtime time community advocate. She is a founding board member and special projects manager for Blackpast.org, the largest online reference center for the African American history available for free. BlackPast was founded by her father, retired University of Washington professor Dr. Quintard Taylor. Among her other community endeavors, Jamila currently serves as the Vice-President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. – Delta Upsilon Omega Graduate Chapter. Beyond her passion for community service, Jamila has spent most of her professional career serving the public good. Jamila works for Northwest Justice Project as the Statewide Advocacy Coordinator for Crime Victim Civil Legal Services. She has extensive experience building community collaborations with nonprofits, private sector businesses and government entities, most notably with the Seattle Youth Violence Prevention Initiative. Jamila also provides consultation services and workshop facilitation to nonprofits in program and organizational development. Jamila has a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Virginia State University and a law degree from the University of Oregon School of Law.



La Rond Baker, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Unit, Washington State Attorney General's Office. Prior to joining the Civil Rights Unit, Ms. Baker was a Staff Attorney at the ACLU of Washington for 6 years. Ms. Baker graduated from the University of Washington School of Law and has served as counsel in lawsuits challenging: a private for-profit corporation's longstanding practice of paying detainee workers only \$1 a day for labor they perform to keep the Northwest Detention Center operational (*Washington v. The GEO Group, Inc.*); the Department of Social and Health Service's failure to provide timely mental health services that resulted in the prolonged incarceration of people court ordered to receive competency treatment services (*Trueblood v. Washington State Dept. of Social and Health Services*); the denial of religious accommodations to Muslim inmates at the Pierce County Jail (*Tarrer v. Pierce County*); and two at-large election systems under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act (*Montes v. City of Yakima* and *Aranda-Glatt v. City of Pasco*). Ms. Baker also helped draft General Rule 37 which provides greater protections against the biased use of peremptories against potential jurors of color and

served on the Washington State Supreme Court's GR 37 Work Group. Prior to law school, Ms. Baker worked for Powerful Voices, the Service Board, taught GED classes at the King County Correctional Facility, and led a seminar on the links between education and incarceration at the University of Washington for students who tutored at the jail for credit.



Christy Wood, Vice President, League of Women Voters Seattle King County. Christy grew up all over the world, living on military bases from Cuba to Japan to Alaska where she was able to experience other cultures while also gaining a deep understanding of what our military personnel sacrifice in order to protect our country. Passionate about voter access and inclusivity, Christy joined the boards of the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County and Disability Rights Washington because they both align with her belief that democracy only works if everyone is at the table. Currently, she is on a one-woman mission to make sure social justice events are inclusive and accessible, most recently working with the March for Science-Seattle as their accessibility coordinator. During the day, she is the Senior Director of Marketing & Sales for the Seattle Symphony.

Racist Behavior and Language

excerpted from *Heroes Not Saints, Public Seminar, History.com*

- "I will cut off this right arm of mine before I will ask for the ballot for the Negro and not for the woman," Susan B. Anthony said in 1866 at a meeting with abolitionist and former slave Frederick Douglass.
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton said it was better for a black woman "to be the slave of an educated white man, than of a degraded, ignorant black one."
- Anna Howard Shaw, a Methodist minister and president of the National Women Suffrage Association, declared: "You have put the ballot in the hands of your black men, thus making them political superiors of white women. Never before in the history of the world have men made former slaves the political masters of their former mistresses!"
- Alice Paul, the bold leader of the women's suffrage movement in the early 1900s, was the chief organizer of that 1913 parade that pushed black women to the back of the march, except Ida B. Wells who refused to go.

Erasure of Black Women Suffrage Leaders

excerpted from *BlackPast.org, ACLU.org*

- Sojourner Truth, an abolitionist, women's rights activist, emancipated slave and itinerant evangelist, became arguably the most well-known 19th Century African American woman. She spoke at many public events on behalf of abolition and women's rights. In 1851, she gave her famous "Ain't I A Woman" speech at a Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio. While we're correcting history, the alleged baring of her breast is a fabrication, interjected into the story a decade later by the event's organizer.

The history of voting rights in the US

