

## KEY DATES IN AMERICAN WOMEN'S HISTORY 1960 - Present

1960 **Enovid**, first birth control pill goes on the market after FDA approval.

1960s First domestic violence hotlines set up. (Shelters followed in 1970s.)

1963 Betty Friedan publishes **The Feminine Mystique**.

The **President's Commission on the Status of Women** chaired by Eleanor Roosevelt reports substantial discrimination against women in the workplace

**Ellen Ash Peters** is the first woman to be granted tenure at Yale Law School.

Congress passes the **Equal Pay Act**.

1964 **Title VII of the Civil Rights Act** bars discrimination in employment on the basis of race, creed, origin or sex.

The **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)** is established.

1965 The Supreme Court rules in **Griswold v. State of Connecticut** that laws prohibiting the use of birth control are unconstitutional.

1966 The **National Organization for Women (NOW)** is founded.

1967 **Muriel Siebert** becomes the first woman to own a seat on the New York Stock Exchange.

**Executive Order 11375** mandates that federal agencies and contractors must ensure women and minorities have the same educational and employment opportunities as white males.

1968 EEOC rules that sex-segregated help wanted ads in newspapers are illegal.

1970 The Boston Women's Health Book Collective publishes **Our Bodies, Ourselves**.

1972 **Ms. Magazine** begins publication with Gloria Steinem as editor and cofounder.

The **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)** is passed by Congress and sent for ratification.

The Supreme Court rules in **Eisenstadt v. Baird** that unmarried women have the right to privacy regarding the use of contraceptives.

**Title IX** of the Higher Education Act requires that educational programs receiving federal assistance not discriminate on the basis of sex.

1973 The Supreme Court in **Roe v. Wade** rules that a woman has a right to an abortion under the constitution.

1974 The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy is the first U.S. Service academy to admit women.

The **Equal Credit Opportunity Act** disallows discrimination in consumer credit practices on

the basis of sex, marital status, race, religion, national origin, age, or receipt of public assistance

- 1975 The Supreme Court rules that women cannot be excluded from juries because of their sex.
- 1976 The state of Nebraska makes it illegal for a husband to rape his wife.
- 1978 The **Pregnancy Discrimination Act** bans employment discrimination against pregnant women.
- 1980 The EEOC issues new guidelines prohibiting sexual harassment.
- 1981 **Sandra Day O'Connor** becomes the first woman justice on the U. S. Supreme Court.
- 1982 The **Equal Rights Amendment** died when it failed to be ratified by a minimum of 38 states.
- 1986 The Supreme Court in **Meritor Savings Bank v. Vinson** rules that sexual harassment is a form of illegal job discrimination.
- 1987 The Census Bureau reports an average woman earns \$.68 for every \$1 earned by a man.
- 1992 The U.S. Supreme Court in **Planned Parenthood v. Casey** reaffirms the validity of the woman's right to abortion under **Roe v. Wade**.
- 1993 **Janet Reno** is the first female U. S. Attorney General.
- 1994 **The Violence Against Women Act** tightens penalties for sex offenders, funds services for victims of rape and domestic violence, and provides for special training of police officers.
- 1996 The Supreme Court in **United States v. Virginia** rules that the all-male Virginia Military School has to admit women in order to continue to receive public funding.
- 1999 The Supreme Court in **Kolstad v. American Dental Association** rules a woman can sue for punitive damages for sex discrimination.
- 2003 The Supreme Court in **Nevada Department of Human Resources v. Hibbs** rules that states can be sued in federal court for violations of the Family Leave Medical Act.
- 2005 The Supreme Court in **Jackson v. Birmingham Board of Education** rules that Title IX also prohibits disciplining someone for complaining about sex-based discrimination.
- 2007 **Nancy Pelosi** becomes the first woman to serve as Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives.
- 2008 **Gen. Ann Dunwoody** becomes the first female four-star general of the United States.
- 2009 The **Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act** allows victims of pay discrimination to file a complaint with the government against their employer within 180 days of their last paycheck.
- 2013 Women in the military will be allowed to serve in combat.

The Census Bureau reports that on average women earn 78% of men's salary.