



Westerville Public Library

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Exhibit Celebrates 100 Years of Women's Voting and Activism in Ohio

Westerville, OH – In 1920, the 19th Amendment granted many women the right to vote. This major victory was only one step in a long journey of women's activism.

Through the stories of Ohio and Westerville women, this new Westerville History Museum exhibit (located inside the Westerville Public Library) commemorates 100 years of suffrage. Women's efforts to seek and advance their rights are explored through ten thought-provoking questions, including *Why is the vote so important?*, *How do women support each other?*, and *How do generations of women's activism build on each other?*

On display through June 20, 2025, the exhibit includes stories of Westerville women, including Minerva France, a trailblazing Black female librarian; Nancy Gene Giles, the first female officer on the police force; and Mary Lou Prouty, the first female mayor.

According to Jackie Barton, Museum Manager, "Women who sought empowerment through the right to vote or a seat in public office are highlighted alongside those who advanced less directly political efforts. All of these women focused their energy on causes that mattered to them and made advances that we can look back and see today."

While here, visitors are encouraged to act out their own shadow puppet theater performance or design an "I Voted" sticker.

Exhibit content was curated and designed by Ohio History Connection and Westerville History Museum staff. The traveling exhibit was funded by The Women's Fund of Central Ohio.

For more information, visit westervillelibrary.org/ohio-women-vote.



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