

The Suffragettes' legacy

Women's legal right to vote was established in the United States over the course of more than half a century, first in various states and localities, sometimes on a limited basis, and then nationally in 1920 with the passing of the 19th Amendment.

The demand for women's suffrage began to gather strength in the 1840s, emerging from the broader movement for women's rights. After a hard-fought series of votes in the U.S. Congress and in state legislatures, the Nineteenth Amendment became part of the U.S. Constitution on August 18, 1920. It states, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

"Karen"

Karen is a pejorative term used as slang for a middle-class white woman who is perceived as entitled or demanding beyond the scope of what is normal. Depictions include demanding to "speak to the manager" and being racist. The term has been considered pejorative by those who believe it is racist, sexist, ageist, classist, and controlling women's behavior. The term has occasionally been applied to male behavior. During 2020, the term increasingly appeared in media and social media, including during the COVID-19 pandemic and George Floyd protests. The Guardian called 2020 "the year of Karen".

We can do it!

"We Can Do It!" is an American World War II wartime poster produced by J. Howard Miller in 1943 for Westinghouse Electric as an inspirational image to boost female worker morale.

The poster was rediscovered in the early 1980s and widely reproduced in many forms, often called "Rosie the Riveter" after the iconic figure of a strong female war production worker. The "We Can Do It!" image was used to promote feminism and other political issues beginning in the 1980s.

People have seized upon the uplifting attitude and apparent message to remake the image into many different forms, including self-empowerment, campaign promotion, advertising, and parodies..



Roe v Wade

Roe v. Wade (1973) was a landmark decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in which the Court ruled that the Constitution of the United States generally protected a right to have an abortion. The decision struck down many abortion laws, and caused an ongoing abortion debate in the United States about whether, or to what extent, abortion should be legal, who should decide the legality of abortion, and what the role of moral and religious views in the political sphere should be. The decision also shaped debate concerning which methods the Supreme Court should use in constitutional adjudication. The Supreme Court's decision in Roe was among the most controversial in U.S. history.

Movies on women empowerment

- The Colour Purple* (1985)
- Thelma and Louise* (1991)
- Erin Brockovich* (2000)
- Legally Blonde* (2001)
- Brave* (2012)
- Hidden Figures* (2016)

Supreme Court Justices appointed by Trump.

	Neil Gorsuch August 29, 1967 Denver, Colorado
	Brett Kavanaugh February 12, 1965 Washington, D.C.
	Amy Coney Barrett January 28, 1972 New Orleans, Louisiana

The Supreme Court

The rise and solidification of a conservative majority on the court during the presidency of Donald Trump sparked a liberal response in the form of calls for court-packing. Democrats in the House of Representatives introduced a bill in April 2021 to expand the Supreme Court from nine to 13 seats, but Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi refused to bring it to the floor and relatively few Democrats backed it.

Shortly after taking office in January 2021, Joe Biden established a presidential commission to study possible reforms to the Supreme Court. The commission's December 2021 final report discussed but took no position on expanding the size of the court. It remains unclear whether it would be constitutional to expand the size of the Supreme Court in ways understood to be designed to "pack" it with justices that would rule more favorably on a president's agenda or to simply change the ideological composition of the court.

Roe v Wade overturned

Since 1973, Roe was criticized by some in the legal community, including some who thought that Roe reached the correct result but went about it the wrong way, and some called the decision a form of judicial activism. Others argued that Roe did not go far enough, as it was placed within the framework of civil rights rather than the broader human rights. The decision also radically reconfigured the voting coalitions of the Republican and Democratic parties in the following decades. Anti-abortion politicians and activists sought for decades to restrict abortion or overrule the decision; polls into the 21st century showed that a plurality and a majority, especially into the late 2010s to early 2020s, opposed overruling Roe. Despite criticism of the decision, the Supreme Court reaffirmed Roe's central holding in its 1992 decision, *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*.

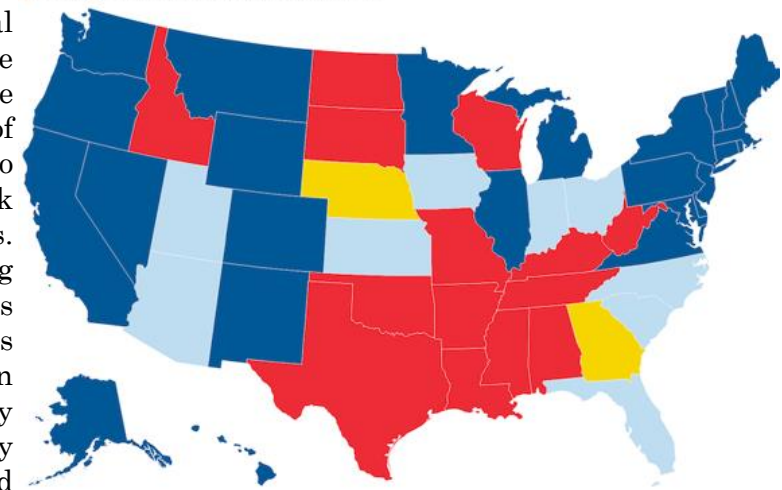
In June 2022, the Supreme Court overruled both *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* on the grounds that the substantive right to abortion was not "deeply rooted in this Nation's history or tradition" – the Constitution of the USA does not confer a right to abortion. The court's decision returned to individual states the power to regulate any aspect of abortion not protected by federal law.

As of 2023, abortion is greatly restricted in 17 states, the vast majority in the South. Referendums conducted in the wake of the decision in Kansas, Montana, California, Vermont, Michigan, and Kentucky uniformly came out in favor of abortion rights, often by bipartisan and overwhelming margins. A Kaiser Family Foundation poll, among others, found that most obstetricians reported increases in maternal mortality; the ruling's effect on national abortion incidence remains uncertain.

Status of Abortion Bans in the United States as of June 20, 2023

Hover over state for more details

Abortion banned (14 states) Gestational limit between 6 and 12 weeks LMP (2 states)
Gestational limit between 15 and 22 weeks LMP (9 states)
Abortion legal beyond 22 weeks LMP (25 states & DC)



The Handmaid's tale

The Handmaid's Tale is a futuristic dystopian novel by Canadian author Margaret Atwood published in 1985. It is set in a near-future New England in a patriarchal, white supremacist, totalitarian theonomic state (the Republic of Gilead), which has overthrown the US government. Offred is the central character and narrator and one of the "Handmaids", women who are forcibly assigned to produce children for the "Commanders", who are the ruling class in Gilead.

The novel explores themes of powerless women in a patriarchal society, loss of female agency and individuality, suppression of women's reproductive rights, and the various means by which women resist and try to gain individuality and independence. The book has been adapted into a 1990 film, a 2017 television series, and other media.



