

## August 26 is Women's Equality Day, commemorating the passing of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which gave women the right to vote



*Suffragists picketing in front of the White House.*

*Harris & Ewing. 1917. Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress.*

**More photos available for the media at the Library of Congress Website:**

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/browse/ListSome.php?category=Women's%20History>

### We've come a long way...

- More women have voted than men in every election since 1964.<sup>1</sup>
- More women register to vote and are more likely to vote. In the 2004 election, 74 percent of eligible women registered to vote, versus 71 percent of men. 65 percent of registered women voted in 2004 versus 62 percent of registered men.<sup>2</sup>

- Because women received the right to vote, they were able to voice their concern over and eventually gain:
  - The right to own property
  - Rights in child custody and divorce proceedings
  - Reproductive rights
  - The right to a discrimination-free workplace
  - Title IX, ensuring equal educational opportunities for men and women
  - The right to get a loan and receive credit without a male co-signer. (Women were not given this right until 1974 with the passage of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.)

### But still have some work to do...

- In the list of countries with parliaments, the U.S. ranks 67<sup>th</sup> in terms of the number of women who are members of the parliament. Rwanda, Nicaragua and Ethiopia all have more women than the United States.<sup>3</sup>
- Only Six out of 21 Cleveland City Council elected positions are held by women.<sup>4</sup>
- Only one of 11 elected officials for Cuyahoga County (excluding judges) is a woman.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Center for Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University, October 2004.

<sup>2</sup> Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2004 U.S. Census Bureau, March 2006.

<sup>3</sup> *Women in National Parliaments* Inter-Parliamentary Union. July 31, 2006

<sup>4</sup> [www.clevelandcitycouncil.org](http://www.clevelandcitycouncil.org) August 18, 2006

<sup>5</sup> [www.cuyahogacounty.us/home/elected.asp](http://www.cuyahogacounty.us/home/elected.asp)