Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment by examining how music has accompanied the fight for the right to vote before and within the last century and supports that call today.
IN MUSIC, we strive for a perfect union of melody, harmony and rhythm.

IN DEMOCRACY, IT’S MORE COMPLICATED.

August 18, 2020 marked the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which declared that voting could not be denied or abridged on account of sex. A week later it officially became law.

While acknowledging this achievement, we reflect on the role of music to promote the call for suffrage, not just for women, but also for black, indigenous, people of color. Though the ratification of the 19th Amendment ended the decades-long struggle for women to secure the right to vote in the United States, the battle for voting rights for non-white citizens continued well into the 20th century, and issues of voter suppression plague our democratic system to this day.

During these struggles, music strengthened the voice of the people, helping relay the message of suffrage, sway perspective, and rally supporters.

In this display, we examine not only the music of suffrage and the activists who raised their voices, using music to persuade, but also how their words and actions inspire music from new generations, tell the story of suffrage, and encourage participation in democracy.
Online Resources from the Digital Display:

https://library.umkc.edu/news-events/voting
**Local Programming**
Votes for Women: 19th Amendment in the Heartland: A regional partnership of exhibits and events. [www.19at100.org](http://www.19at100.org)
UMKC Women's Center
WWI Museum and Memorial: Votes & Voices
Kansas City Public Library
- The 19th Amendment Centennial: 1920-2020
- A Colorful Centennial Commemoration of Women’s Right to Vote
League of Women Voters: Kansas, Missouri, and Kansas City
Johnson County Museum

**National Exhibits**
2020 Women’s Vote Centennial Initiative
National Archives: Women Suffrage and the 19th Amendment
National Park Service: The 19th Amendment: 100 Years
Women's Vote Centennial
Smithsonian Institution: Votes for Women
National Portrait Gallery: Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence

**Additional Resources:**
- [Vote.org](http://Vote.org): Check registration status and make sure voting information is up to date.
- UMKC Office of Student Engagement

Throughout October and November, we'll highlight resources and events on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

*Display created by Tracy Bass, Bryanna Beasley and Libby Hanssen. Digital display and icon designed by Sean McCue. Most materials available for check out.*