The following link will take you from the suffrage tab on the home page of the Greater Grand Rapids Women’s History Council to a LANDING PAGE featuring suffrage resources, including but also in addition to the new digital exhibit itself: https://www.ggrwhc.org/suffrage-home.

The **Taking Center Stage** exhibit can be accessed from the upper left corner of the landing page: https://www.ggrwhc.org/suffrage-grand-rapids/ (For more specific information, scroll down.)

The center top of this landing page links to a timeline intersecting prominent events from both the Michigan and U.S. suffrage movements with the Grand Rapids suffrage movement. The latter is one example of the type of local activity undertaken across the nation: https://www.ggrwhc.org/a-shared-fight-the-national-state-and-local-movements/

The general landing page also includes a Michigan suffrage quiz created for a national website a Girl Scouts badge, which we created and designed. The link on the upper right corner is to a new **Suffrage Resource Guide**, created to be used broadly by suffrage researchers, interested individuals, book clubs, youth group leaders, K-12 educators, home-schooling parents, and extended education programs. It features overview information about the Michigan and national movements, resource links, and an activities section: https://www.ggrwhc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/GGRWHC-Womens-Suffrage-Resource-Guide-April-21-2020.pdf

The Michigan Suffrage History Resources page on the lower right of the landing page duplicates a page from the digital suffrage exhibit. Within this page is a gem, not to be overlooked—a searchable, detailed, year-by-year listing of Michigan and Grand Rapids suffrage organizations and their leaders: https://www.ggrwhc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Michigan-and-Grand-Rapids-Suffrage-Organizations.pdf
The Taking Center Stage digital suffrage exhibit can be accessed from the upper left corner of the landing page: [https://www.ggrwhc.org/suffrage-grand-rapids](https://www.ggrwhc.org/suffrage-grand-rapids). Immediately below is introductory material from its home page. Please use the link to scroll down and explore three historical timelines for Grand Rapids, but pertinent elsewhere; vignettes highlighting three bits of Grand Rapids suffrage history; a more general timeline linking local, state, and national movements; and, finally, a resource page, including a list of all Michigan and Grand Rapids suffrage organizations and their leaders.

The following is taken from the Taking Center Stage home page; and at the bottom here is a general announcement of the new exhibit.

**SETTING THE STAGE for TAKING CENTER STAGE**

The women’s suffrage movement in the United States spanned over seven decades, from the first women’s rights convention in 1848 at Seneca Falls, New York, to the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920. The national story is well known, and influential groups like the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), founded by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, and the National Woman’s Party (NWP), founded by Alice Paul, are included in every complete account of the struggle for women’s voting rights.
But the national story is not the whole story. State and local organizations were as critical to winning the vote as the national organizations headquartered in Washington, D.C. and New York. Michigan and Grand Rapids suffragists agitated for the vote in the early 1870s and continued fighting until 1918, when a state constitutional amendment finally granted full voting rights to all Michigan women. Grand Rapids suffragists took center stage at crucial moments in both the state and national suffrage movements during this nearly half-century long effort.

Prepared in celebration of the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment in 2020, this digital history exhibit tells the rich history of women’s suffrage in Grand Rapids and in Michigan. It documents the three central stages of the specific Grand Rapids campaign and explores its stories in depth with historical vignettes from key moments of the decades-long struggle. Finally, a comprehensive timeline puts the Grand Rapids suffrage movement into context by intersecting it with prominent events from both the Michigan and U.S. suffrage movements.

GGRWHC LAUNCHES DIGITAL SUFFRAGE EXHIBIT

Grand Rapids and Michigan women’s suffrage history comes alive in Taking Center Stage, a fascinating new digital exhibit featuring archival photographs, documents, and news articles to tell the story of five decades of suffrage activism. During this time, local women rose to prominence in state and national organizations and in 1899 hosted in Grand Rapids the annual convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

The new exhibit recreates this exciting event, describes the struggles of black suffrage advocates who faced discrimination both within and outside of the movement, and highlights the persistent and creative efforts of Grand Rapids suffragists to call attention to their work and to garner public support. Thanks in part to the momentum gained by their efforts, women in Michigan won full voting rights in 1918, two years before the Nineteenth Amendment went into effect.

The Greater Grand Rapids Women’s History Council invites you to join us in celebrating the work of these determined women. Learn more through the timelines, vignettes, and resources at: https://www.ggrwhc.org/suffrage-grand-rapids/.