

# Kentuckians and Civic Action



Gov. Morrow signing the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, 6 January 1920,  
Kentucky Historical Society

## ***Kentucky and the 19th Amendment***

On January 6, 1920, Kentucky ratified the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, which gave women the right to vote.

For decades, dozens of prominent Kentucky suffragists, including Laura Clay, Josephine Henry, Mary Barr Clay, and others joined organizations like the American Women Suffrage Association and the Kentucky Equal Rights Association and pressed for the right to vote.

Women had previously been allowed to vote in school board elections, but that law was overturned in 1902, in order to cut the power of African American voters. The law was reinstated in 1912, but a literacy test was then required for women voters.

The Bluegrass State was the 24<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the amendment, which was signed by Gov. Edwin Morrow.