

## Suffragist “I Voted” Stickers Submission

The Office of the Secretary of the State of Connecticut is excited to enter a submission to the EAC Clearinghouse Awards for the custom suffragist “I Voted” stickers that were distributed at the polls on Election Day. You can access them digitally, download, and print them on our website [here](#).

In light of the 100-year anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which ultimately gave women the right to vote, we wanted to honor suffragist contributions with a special tribute. Our office received widespread enthusiasm and support for these stickers from voters, registrars, and several others across the state during such an unprecedented election year. To many who cast their ballot every year, receiving “I Voted” stickers is typically a fun reward, so this project came as a pleasant surprise to voters across the state.

Each of the stickers below showcase a Connecticut suffragist or women’s rights activist. They are captioned with a short summary of her contributions. Through these stickers, we celebrate the women from all backgrounds who worked so hard in the fight for equality, who deserve equal recognition in the broader story of women’s suffrage. All of this was made possible with the help of Pamela Hovland.

Pamela is a Wilton resident, graphic designer, faculty member at Yale University, and a longtime visual activist. She assisted with the project and collaborated with historians to convey individual stories of these activists across Connecticut. Over the past several months, Pamela has been researching and writing about the suffrage movement for a number of publications.

The Office of the Secretary of the State wants to celebrate this achievement, as our elections department, local election officials, and volunteers worked so hard to make this election a success. We can think of no better way to celebrate democracy and voting than by showcasing those suffragists who fought for everyone’s right to vote, on its 100-year anniversary.

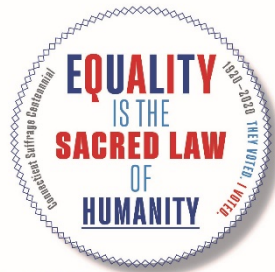
# The Women Who Made It Happen: Connecticut's Suffragist "I Voted" Stickers



**Anna Louise James** of Old Saybrook was a community leader who was active in local political organizations and one of the first women and African Americans to register to vote in the town. She was also the first female pharmacist in Connecticut. Thank you Anna!



**Elsie Hill** of Norwalk toured the nation giving suffrage speeches for the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association and Alice Paul's National Woman's Party. She picketed the White House and was arrested for protesting in Lafayette Square. Thank you Elsie!



**Connecticut suffragists** were as diverse as the state's population at the time, including African Americans, recent European immigrants and old Connecticut families. These women campaigned for their right to vote in all matters related to citizenship; they demanded equality. We thank them!



Women from diverse backgrounds, races, and political ideologies were behind the suffrage movement's progress in Connecticut. They helped to solidify **equal voting rights for women** nationally by campaigning to make it the 37th state to ratify the 19th Amendment.



**Isabella Beecher Hooker** of Litchfield and Hartford helped found the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association in 1869. She organized women's rights conventions and advocated for a successful bill granting property rights to married women. Thank you Isabella!



**Josephine Day Bennett** of Hartford was a National Woman's Party member who collaborated with working class and African American women in her pursuit of suffrage. She was Connecticut's Labor Party candidate for the U.S. Senate in 1920. Thank you Josephine!



Hundreds of **Connecticut women** cast their first national ballots in 1920. Many were suffragists who had marched in Hartford, New Haven, Norwalk and other local cities. Some had protested in Washington DC and several were arrested for picketing outside the White House. We thank them!



**Maria Clemencia Colón Sanchez** of Puerto Rico and Hartford fulfilled the suffragists' dream of women becoming fully enfranchised citizens. She championed bilingual education and was the first Hispanic woman elected to the Connecticut General Assembly in 1988. Thank you Maria!



**Mary Emma Townsend Seymour** of Hartford challenged her fellow suffragists to make sure women of all races would benefit equally from the 19th Amendment. She was the first African American woman to run for the Connecticut State Assembly. Thank you Mary!

Image: The Connecticut State Archives