Suggested Children’s Books about the Struggle for Women’s Suffrage in the United States

This list has been prepared by members of the League of Women Voters of the Northampton Area after reviewing many books in local libraries. With thanks to the collaboration of the librarians at Forbes Library in Northampton, Lilly Library in Florence, and Meekins Library in Williamsburg. We have chosen twenty books that we believe will have strong appeal to elementary school children and their teachers. You will find many others in your local libraries, especially in the biography section.

General Interest including for read-aloud

Ballots for Belva: The True Story of a Woman’s Race for the Presidency
Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen 2008  Forbes  Grades 2-5
Well written appealing picture book about Belva Lockwood who became a lawyer, worked for women’s suffrage, was nominated for president of the U.S. in 1872; story of history and perseverance

Bold and Brave: Ten Heroes Who Won Women the Right to Vote
Kirsten Gillebrand, Maira Kalman, illustrator  2018  Forbes  Grades 1-5

Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote
Tanya Lee Stone  2008  Lilly and Forbes  Grades 1-5
Picture book but good for all ages – accurate, well written, appealing illustrations

I Could Do That! Esther Morris Gets Women the Vote
Linda Arms White  2005  Forbes  Grades K-5
Very engaging picture book – good read aloud any age. About the woman who helped win the vote in Wyoming and then was elected herself

Lillian’s Right to Vote
Jonah Winter and Shane W. Evans  2015  Forbes  Grades 1-5
Picture book about Lillian Allen – her march through the history of voting rights in the U.S. until , at the age of 100, she casts her vote for Barack Obama and canvasses her Pittsburgh neighborhood

Mary Walker Wears the Pants: The True Story of the Doctor, Reformer and Civil War Hero
Cheryl Harness  2013  Lilly  Grades 1-5
A very interesting person – mentions suffrage, although not a focus

Miss Paul and the President: The Creative Campaign for Women’s Right to Vote
Dean Robbins  2016  Forbes  Grades K-5
Engaging picture book about the significant role that Alice Paul played and who she was as a feisty woman

Rabble Rousers
Cheryl Harness  2003  Lilly  Grades 1-5
American History through the experience of women. Includes a significant suffrage section

Remember the Ladies: 100 Great American Women
Cheryl Harness  2001  Lilly and Forbes  Grades 1-5
Travel through American History from settlement to now through the experiences of famous American Women – very useful and interesting reference - good foundational history book

Why Couldn’t Susan B. Anthony Vote: and other questions about Women’s Suffrage
Mary Kay Carson  2015  Forbes  Grades 2-5 - Our best choices of the many Susan B. Anthony books
**Grades K-2**

*A Lady Has the Floor*
Kate Hannigan  2018  Forbes  Grades K-2

Picture book about Belva Lockwood who was nominated for president of the U.S. in 1872

*Around America To Win the Vote: Two Suffragists, A Kitten, and 10,000 miles*
Mara Rockliff  2016  Lilly  Grades K-2

Very appealing about the perseverance of two suffragists in their cross country automobile tour to advocate for women’s suffrage – good book for young children

*Friends for Freedom: The Story of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass*
Suzanne Slade  2014  Forbes  Grades K-3

Not as good as above but more detail and similar emphasis on their friendship

**Grades 3-6**

*Ida B. Wells: Let the Truth Be Told*
Walter Dean Myers  2008  Forbes  Grades 3-5

Very effective picture book; read aloud (note lynching info and pictures that are sensitive)

*Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters*
Andrea Davis Pinkney  2000  Forbes  Grades 2-6

Short biographies of Sojourner Truth, Ida B. Wells and Harriet Tubman among others.

A gorgeous book, well written with especially artistic illustrations

*Roses and Radicals: The Epic Story of How American Women Won the Right to Vote*
Susan Zimet and Todd Hasak-Lowy  2018  Forbes  Grades 4-8

An excellent overview of the suffrage movement with accurate and interesting details and interpretation of the history. Good for grades 5-8.

*She Takes a Stand: 16 Fearless Activists Who Have Changed the World*
Michael Elsohn Ross  2015  Forbes  Grades 4-6

Connects modern feminist stories to historical contexts

*You Want Women to Vote, Lizzie Stanton?*
Jean Fritz  1995  Forbes and Lilly  Grades 4-5

Very well written biography of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, first chapter would be a fine read aloud for 2-5

*With Courage and Cloth: Winning the Fight for a Woman’s Right to Vote*
Ann Bausum  2004  Lilly  Grades 4-6 and very useful for teachers

Well written and interesting with helpful biographies and references; all illustrations are photographs.