

## Honoring Our Past, by Breaking Barriers to Birth Our Future!

My family history has a large impact on what the right to vote means to me. As a child, I would listen to my great-grandmother describe her experience of voting for the first time. Being an African American woman, the road to voting was even more challenging. My great-grandmother took advantage of an opportunity that may have left her ancestors beaten or even worse dead. Even though I cannot currently exercise my right to vote, it is a day I look forward to knowing that I can cast my vote in favor of what I believe is right.

While we celebrate how much progress has been made since 1919, it cannot stop in 2019. Decisions still to be made at the federal, state, and local level will impact my future and generations to come. Change is never easy, but it is worth it if it means we can leave our community and our world in a better place.

In 2019, it is very easy to forget how far women have come since 1919. While we continue to fight for equal pay and the right to do as we desire with our bodies, women's suffrage laid the foundation for us to be able to speak for ourselves. No longer do we have to rely entirely on the voice of men to be heard. Women continue to break out of the box that was built around us that said we could only be seen and not heard. It is up to everyone, not just women, to keep chipping away at the boxes that confine us all.

Our dreams become truth because we stop at nothing to turn them into goals. Currently Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nunez, Attorney General Ashley Moody, and Jenna Persons, candidate for State Representative, are serving the state of Florida in various capacities because of past women such as Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Mary McCleod Bethune and Wilhelmina Celeste Goehring Harvey. The goals we set for ourselves should progress us, bring knowledge, raise awareness and personal accountability. When I think of such

greatness, I am reminded of peaceful tactics that were effective because of many great Florida women. We must continue to strive by letting our voices be heard and vote. In 2020, don't dishonor the past by not voting! Let's continue to birth the future! Wear your I voted sticker proudly!! I say we flood the poles and VOTE VOTE VOTE! Just think one day citizens may be voting for me as Florida's first woman Governor!