

An Overview

Driving the Vote for Equality Tour

In 1916 suffragists Alice Burke and Nell Richardson embarked on a remarkable journey, driving 10,700 miles from New York City to California and back. This audacious feat marked a significant milestone in the women's suffrage movement as they were the first women to undertake such a long and arduous journey at a time when highways were scarce and public services were limited. The movement had reached a critical juncture. Voting rights for women in the Constitution was stalled, and the suffragists recognized the need for increased public engagement and heightened visibility to reignite support.

With determination in their hearts, Alice and Nell climbed into a gleaming golden Saxon motor car affectionately named the Golden Flyer. This small yet powerful vehicle became their symbol of hope and their means of spreading awareness about the injustices of denying women the right to vote. Armed with seven different lectures for different audiences, they traveled across the country, delivering captivating speeches, organizing supporters, and engaging in press interviews. Their tireless efforts were instrumental in promoting the cause of women's suffrage and garnering widespread support.

The Golden Flyer's journey along with other forms of demonstrations and lobbying, all had a profound impact on the nation. Four years later, in 1920, the 19th Suffrage Amendment was added to the Constitution. This victory serves as a poignant reminder of the resilience and perseverance of the suffragists who fought tirelessly for our democracy. It underscores the fact that progress in the fight for equality is not a linear journey but a testament to the power of persistence in overcoming challenges and opposition.

An original Saxon motorcar has been restored and transformed into the Golden Flyer II. On March 1, 2026 – for Women's History Month - [ERA NOW](#) and its supporting groups will embark on an ambitious and essential mission to demonstrate a similar tenacity. The Driving the Vote for Equality Tour launches in New York City and continues to 25 states, marking a national journey across the United States. This tour aims to shed light on the unfinished business of American democracy: the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

The Tour and the Books

Two books have recently been published that delve into the significance of the 1916 Tour.

- [Driving the Vote for Women: An American Journey for Suffrage](#) by Jeryl Schriever (Applewood Books: 2024) chronicles the 1916 suffrage drive through the eyes of the suffragists and media articles from that era. This 145-page book features maps, photographs, and newspaper stories that shed light on the challenges of early automobile travel and the significance of their journey in advancing the suffrage movement four years before the ratification of the 19th Amendment.
- [Around America to Win the Vote: Two Suffragists, a Kitten, and 10,000 Miles](#) by Mara Rockliff and illustrated by Hadley Hooper (Candlewick Press: 2016) is a captivating children's book that narrates the story in a lively and enchanting manner. The book's text and illustrations effectively convey the excitement surrounding the trip and the courage displayed by Nell and Alice throughout their journey.

At various stops along the Driving the Vote for Equality Tour, Ms. Schriever and local historians will focus their talks on raising awareness about the history of the women's suffrage movement and the drive across America when the 19th Amendment was stalled and women could not vote in national elections. They turned motion into pressure. Visibility into power. Four years later, women won the right to vote.

During Women's History Month in March, the Golden Flyer II will depart from New York City and travel to various states, including New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Washington DC, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, and pauses in Arizona in early April.

Once the snow melts in the northern states, the Golden Flyer II will resume its journey through California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, upstate New York, and return to New York City.

Raising Awareness and Activism

As we now know, it took the 1965 Voting Rights Act for ALL women to be able to use the vote. Unfortunately, it is being stripped away by the Supreme Court just like what happened in the Dobbs decision on reproductive rights.

ERA activists and experts will emphasize the importance of securing full "equality of rights under the law" in the Constitution to ensure gains made, such as Title IX in education, are permanent and to lay the groundwork for future equal rights on economic issues, healthcare, and emerging areas like artificial intelligence.

In January 2026, [Ms. magazine](#) published a feature story about the 1916 suffrage drive and its connection to the 2026 Driving the Vote for Equality Tour that aims to recognize the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

This March, the story of the original Golden Flyer will be shared at the locations where suffragists stopped and where women today continue to fight for economic fairness, healthcare, personal safety, and equal representation.

At each stop, supporters will be encouraged to board the Golden Flyer II, take selfies for social media, engage in conversations, attend events, and actively contribute to advancing the ERA.

While the Driving the Vote for Equality Tour aims to raise awareness, the sponsors will also work towards activating the 75% of Americans who support the ERA through a national petition drive, [Sign4ERA.org](#). Signatures gathered will urge Congress to pass a joint resolution recognizing the 28th Amendment.

Congress passed the Equal Rights Amendment in 1972, and by 2020 it had been fully ratified by the required 38 states. Since then, Congress has introduced resolutions affirming the ERA's validity and constitutional status regardless of arbitrary timelines or attempts to rescind it. The Driving the Vote for Equality Tour aims to educate people about the century-long struggle for suffrage and mobilize supporters to pass the Congressional ERA Joint Resolution by 2027.

[Sign4ERA.org](#), launched in 2023, is a national petition drive led by former Member of Congress Carolyn Maloney along with other ERA activists and Hunter College students at the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute in New York City. Rep. Maloney was the ERA champion throughout her congressional service from 1993 to 2023.

Driving the Vote for Equality is a project of [ERA NOW](#), a tax-deductible 501(c)(3) organization based in New York City. For more information, contact team@sign4era.org