



For Immediate Release

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Twenty-five State ERA Tour Launched in New York City with Historic 1916 Saxon Motor Car Used in Suffrage Tour

New York - In honor of 2026 Women's History Month, a major national advocacy campaign, the Driving the Vote for Equality Tour, launched in New York City on March 1, 2026, with an eye-catching, historical visual — a restored 1914 Saxon motor car, called the Golden Flyer II, the same make and model driven by two suffragists on their groundbreaking 10,700-mile cross-country campaign for women's voting rights.

In 1916, suffrage was stalled, just as the Equal Rights Amendment is stalled today. Following in the suffragists' footsteps, the [ERA NOW](#) Equality Tour is traveling through 25 states to raise awareness and activate supporters as it mobilizes voters and collects petition signatures for the National ERA petition drive, [Sign4ERA.org](#).

The launch of the tour began at The New York Historical with a 45-minute program featuring former Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, the Eleanor Roosevelt Distinguished Leader in Residence at Hunter College's Roosevelt House and the founder of ERA NOW. She was joined by Jeryl Schriever, the author of a book, *Driving the Vote for Women*, about the suffragists' journey; Kim Villaneueva, president of the National Organization for Women (NOW); [Podcaster](#), author of Mission Matters and passionate advocate for women's advancement Dr. Nancy O'Reilly; and Zakiya Thomas, president and CEO of the ERA Coalition. All spoke of the inspiration and new energy they are seeing through the ERA tour.

Former Congresswoman Maloney told the assembled crowd that women have waited far too long for equality, saying "it's time to change the Epstein Congress into the ERA Congress!" She noted her daughters have fewer rights than she had at that age even though surveys show that more than 75% of Americans support the ERA. She urged the audience to support the tour and give the majority a voice and a plan of action to have the ERA fully implemented.

Ms. Schriever talked about the complaints and challenges that Alice Burke and Nell Richardson faced as they traveled the country with a cat in 1916. She said that some men would complain that women were too stupid to vote or that voting would make them less feminine. One claim against suffrage supporters was that they were all single women with cats. Schriever wryly observed, "Alice was a widow and Nell wasn't married. Two single women with a cat. Ring a bell?"

Ms. Villanueva forcefully made the case for action. "NOW is joining the **Driving the Vote for Equality** tour — to turn urgency into action. We're organizing, educating, and mobilizing so that equality is not a talking point, but a constitutional guarantee!"

Dr. O'Reilly agreed that women must fight for the ERA and to regain the losses we have suffered in the past few years. She said she was fighting for her three daughters and nine granddaughters, joining the tour for several cities. She urged the audience to join her both on the tour and off, to spread the word, and to vote in the upcoming mid-term elections.

Ms. Thomas also urged listeners to take action to stop cuts to women's rights and move the ERA forward. "Today, the Equal Rights Amendment has met all requirements to be the 28th Amendment to the US Constitution. We are not going away! We are growing in strength and power. And like the 1916 drive

across the US, this Driving the Vote for Equality tour is bringing gender equality to the forefront to make equality a reality.”

The launch was a pre-event to THE New York Historical’s 2026 Diane and Adam E. Max Conference on Women’s History: “Liberty for All? Women in the Age of Revolutions.”

Kathy Bonk of Sign4ERA urged everyone to join the travelers outside the museum to sign the petition to Congress, take pictures with the Golden Flyer II, and cheer on the touring group as the Saxon departed through Central Park to New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Washington DC, and Virginia in just the first week.

First introduced in 1923 and passed by Congress in 1972, the ERA states, Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Thirty-eight states have ratified the Equal Rights Amendment, fulfilling every constitutional requirement. ERA NOW and other supporters are pushing Congress for a Joint Resolution to recognize the ERA as the 28th Amendment, thus eliminating any uncertainties.

The Driving the Vote for Equality Tour aims to collect one million petition signatures by Election Day 2026 and build the Congressional majority needed to finish the work the suffragists began over a century ago.

For details about the 1916 Suffrage Tour and connections to the Equal Rights Amendment, [link to this 4-page piece in Ms. magazine.](#)

See the Driving the Vote for Equality website for regular updates: DrivingTheVote.org