



AHEAD OF THE CURVE

Legacy Washington celebrates the 100th anniversary of American women gaining the right to vote with an exhibit, online profiles, lesson plans, and a student contest coming in September 2019.

We mark this milestone by highlighting the numerous ways Washington has been **Ahead of the Curve** since it first granted women the right to vote in 1883. In 1910 our state became the fifth to include women's suffrage in its constitution — a decade ahead of the nation. And Washington women keep blazing trails in fields from science to bridge building. Legacy Washington highlights the pioneering spirit of some larger-than-life women and little-known stories with big impacts on Washington, the nation, and beyond.

In 1912, **Josephine Corliss Preston** was elected state Superintendent of Public Instruction, the direct beneficiary of a suffrage movement propelled by thousands of resourceful female campaigners. Washington's first female statewide elected official was idealistic, disarmingly bright, and politically nimble. Early on, she emerged as one of America's most influential educators. In 16 years as state school superintendent, she created a modern school system.



Elsie Parrish, a Wenatchee chambermaid, fought to get paid what she was owed in Washington, which was the fourth state in the U.S. with a minimum wage. Her landmark lawsuit went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, whose 1937 decision cleared a legal path for New Deal policies such as Social Security and a federal minimum wage. All because Parrish, a 37-year-old grandmother, had the gumption to stand up for working women.



Washington state not only led the way on **"comparable worth"** — the concept that different jobs of similar value should have similar pay — it invented the term. Some 50 years after Elsie Parrish's victory in court, Washington was the laboratory for a novel pay-equity argument that led to raises for thousands of women state workers. Playing a pivotal role that would propel her political career was **Chris Gregoire**, the state's first woman deputy attorney general.

Fawn Sharp is looking far ahead into the 21st Century. As president of the Quinault Indian Nation, Sharp's drive to unite tribes on fighting climate change started close to her ancestral land. She has seen the Quinaults' beloved blueback salmon runs dwindle year after year, and witnessed the loss of glaciers in the Olympic Mountains. In 2018, Sharp hit the road in an R.V. hoping to rally the state's tribes to vote, particularly for a carbon-tax initiative.



www.sos.wa.gov/legacy

info@sos.wa.gov | (360) 902-4171 | PO Box 40222, Olympia, WA 98504

Help support *Ahead of the Curve*



Legacy Washington is an educational campaign with the goal of furthering knowledge of the state's history through compelling storytelling in exhibits, books, videos, online profiles, lesson plans, and more. This collaborative venture, spearheaded by Secretary of State Kim Wyman, recognizes the immeasurable value of our state's history and our duty to preserve it.



Legacy Washington helps to document and illustrate contributions to state history by members of Congress, governors, judges, other statewide elected officials, and influential newsmakers. Stories highlight little-known occurrences and activists, surprising facts, as well as celebrated people and events that changed the course of history.



Our annual exhibits offer visitors a unique and interactive opportunity to learn about our state's history and the people who shaped its course. The State Capitol and the Office of the Secretary of State welcome more than 40,000 people annually with visitors from across the globe as well as K-12 student groups.



Legacy Washington is currently seeking support for the upcoming project *Ahead of the Curve*, which will officially launch in September 2019. *Ahead of the Curve* will include a traveling exhibit, online profiles, a printed compilation of the profiles, and accompanying lesson plans. Legacy Washington projects are made possible with private funds raised by the Washington State Heritage Center Trust, a 501(c)3 non profit.



Sponsors receive special recognition on printed materials, social media, and the Secretary of State website, and are invited to attend the opening ceremony, programs and events throughout the year as guest speakers or discussion group participants. Sponsor logos will be displayed on all electronic marketing and printed material, as well as on the web. Additionally, sponsors will be invited to a special reception with Secretary Wyman and exhibit staff after the opening.

Help us share these fascinating stories and consider sponsoring *Ahead of the Curve*. Contact Laura Mott, Director of Development, at (360) 902-4171 or laura.mott@sos.wa.gov.

COMING SEPTEMBER 2019:

Legacy Washington Youth Oral History Project

Washington students are invited to celebrate the national suffrage centennial by conducting their own oral history projects through interviewing the women change makers in their families and communities to tell their stories. The contest is open to Washington state high school students in grades 9-12. Final projects can be in the form of an essay, podcast, or video. Prizes and a special reception for winning projects will be awarded for each grade. For more information and details, visit www.sos.wa.gov/legacy/



Instagram and Twitter: @Legacy_WA
Facebook: @WALegacy

WWW.SOS.WA.GOV/LEGACY