

Welcome to the Kansas State Capitol!

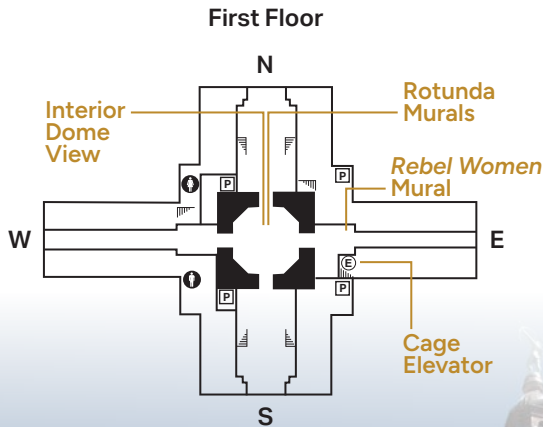
This classically-inspired building is Kansas' most important architectural treasure as well as the working offices for the governor and legislators. Completed in 1903, the Capitol is 17 feet higher than the U. S. Capitol in Washington, D. C.

Rebel Women, by Phyllis J. Garibay-Coon of Manhattan, was created to honor the hundreds of Kansas women who fought for suffrage. A project of the Kansas League of Women Voters, the mural was dedicated in the Kansas State Capitol in 2025.



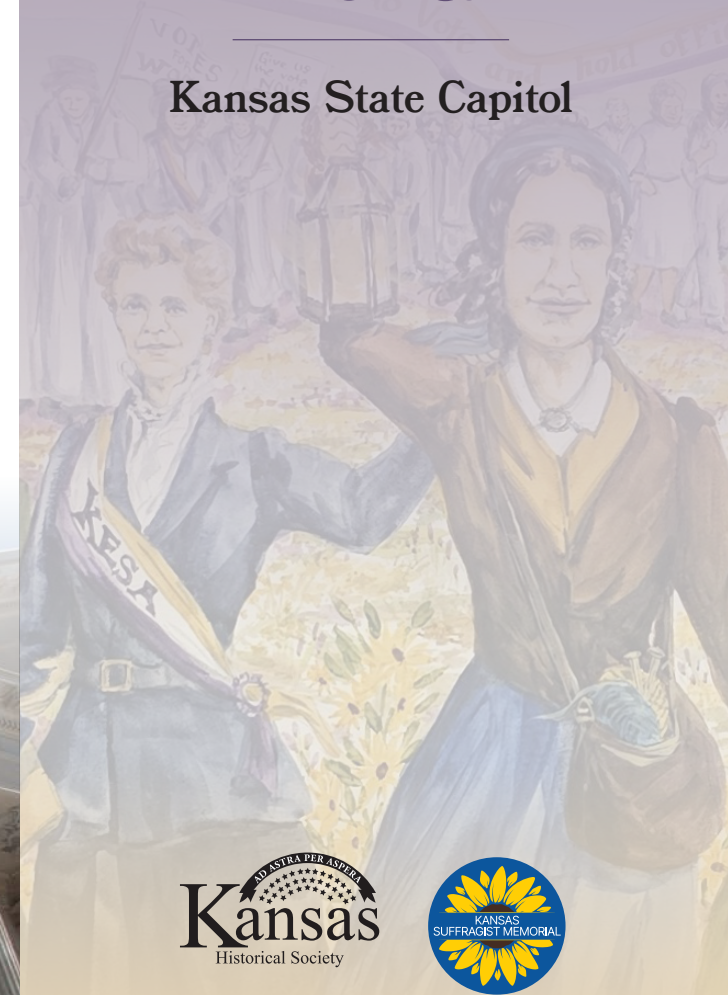
The league made a proposal to the Capitol Preservation Committee to lead an effort for a woman's suffrage memorial to honor Kansas women and the 19th Amendment. With the committee's approval, the league raised funds for an 8-foot by 19-foot oil painting on canvas.

Artist Phyllis J. Garibay-Coon of Manhattan grew up on a farm in Kingman County. She works primarily in oil on a large-scale. Garibay-Coon depicted 13 suffragists who demonstrated "strength, courage, and tenacity" through challenging circumstances. They motivated hundreds of women and men to support a series of suffrage initiatives that led to passage of the 1912 woman's suffrage amendment.



Rebel Women Mural

Kansas State Capitol



Kansas
Historical Society



SW 8th and SW Van Buren, Topeka
785-296-3966
kansashistory.gov/capitol



The mural highlights 13 women who were integral to the eventual passage of the state women's suffrage amendment in 1912, which states:

“The rights of the citizens of the state of Kansas to Vote and hold offices shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex.”

From far left:

- **At door:** **Ann O. Anthony, 1844-1930, Leavenworth,** sister-in-law of Susan B. Anthony, hosted national suffragists at her home during the 1887 campaign
- **Seated:** **Lutie A. Lytle, 1875-1955, Topeka,** first African American woman admitted to the Kansas Bar Association, lectured on Kansas' marriage and divorce laws
- **Seated:** **Anna C. Wait, 1837-1916, Lincoln,** published the Lincoln Beacon with 20 years of suffrage news, co-founded the Kansas Equal Suffrage Association (KESA)
- **Lilla D. Monroe, 1858-1929, WaKeeney/Topeka,** first woman to practice law before the Kansas Supreme Court, published the Kansas Woman's Journal in Topeka
- **Annie L. Diggs, 1853-1916, Lawrence/Topeka,** a People's Party suffragist and KESA president; as the first female state librarian, helped design the Capitol's state library

- **Laura M. Johns, 1849-1935, Salina,** president of KESA and the Kansas Republican Woman's Association, helped coordinate 30 state suffrage conventions
- **At center:** **Clarina F. H. Nichols, 1810-1885, Wyandotte,** a lifelong and tireless advocate of abolition and woman's rights, she presented petitions for woman's rights at the Wyandotte Constitutional Convention in 1859, convincing delegates to include some accommodations for women
- **Holding resolution:** **Lizzie S. Sheldon, 1851-1942, Lawrence,** University of Kansas law school graduate, wrote final woman's suffrage resolution, ran for a seat on the Kansas Supreme Court
- **Carrie Langston Hughes, 1873-1938, Lawrence,** civil rights advocate and journalist, urged African American women to seek political careers, emphasized education for her son, Langston Hughes
- **Mary J. Dillard, 1874-1954, Lawrence,** prominent educator, promoted civil rights in education, taught Langston Hughes
- **Jane L. Brooks, 1867-1945, Wichita,** KESA president, founded the first state chapter of the National League of Women Voters
- **Lucy B. Johnston, 1846-1937, Topeka,** lawyer, expanded the Kansas Traveling Library collection; as KESA president, led the 1912 campaign to ratify the Kansas Equal Suffrage Amendment
- **Seated:** **Minnie J. Grinstead, 1869-1925, Larned/Liberal,** first woman elected to the Kansas House of Representatives, presented the joint resolution to ratify the 19th Amendment

Clarina Nichols of Vermont was a recognized leader in the women's rights movement when she came to Kansas Territory in 1854. She represented the Moneka Woman's Rights Association from Linn County at the Wyandotte Constitutional Convention in 1859, persuading delegates to include some rights for women, such as votes in school board elections in the new state government. Kansas women continued to make incremental progress toward full voting rights, organizing the Kansas Equal Suffrage Association (KESA) in 1884. Women gained the right to vote in city elections in 1887. They campaigned for a state amendment for women's suffrage in 1894, which failed, then coordinated a successful campaign in 1912.



After achieving votes for women in Kansas, they supported the passage of the 19th Amendment. KESA held its last meeting in 1919. One legacy was the League of Women Voters of Kansas, the first state league in the nation. Through nine local leagues, the organization continues to help encourage and inform active citizenship.