

SELECTED TIMELINE OF WOMEN'S LABOR HISTORY	DATE
In Pawtucket, Rhode Island, 102 female workers go on strike to support their fellow (male) weavers. These women, who protested wage reduction and long hours, stage the first factory workers strike in the U.S.	1824
The first women-only union is formed: The United Tailoresses of New York. They soon go on strike.	1825
The United Tailoresses strike. About 1600 women band together to demand fair wages for their work.	1831
Women shoe binders from Lynn, Massachusetts and neighboring towns form their own protective organization.	1833
First turnout of "mill girls" in Lowell, Massachusetts, to protest wage cuts.	1834
More than 800 female mill workers in Lowell, Massachusetts strike to protest a wage reduction; mill owners defeat the strike by hiring scabs and refusing to bargain.	1834
More than 1,500 female mill workers in Lowell, MA, form a Factory Girls' Association and strike to protest an increase in the cost of room and board in company-owned boarding houses. In response, several mill owners rescind the increase.	1836
Lowell employers raise rents in the women's boarding houses, provoking a widespread and better organized response from the women than in 1835. The women stay on strike until the rent increases are canceled or reduced.	1837
Mary Harris is born. She later becomes Mary Harris Jones, known as "Mother Jones". She was an American schoolteacher and dressmaker who became a prominent labor and community organizer, helped coordinate major strikes and co-founded the Industrial Workers of the World. She began working as an organizer for the Knights of Labor and the United Mine Workers union after her husband and four children died of yellow fever and her workshop was destroyed in a fire.	1837
In Lowell cotton mill workers, led by Sarah Bagdley, form The Lowell Female Labor Reform Association (LFLRA) to reduce the workday and improve sanitation and safety in the mills. This is the largest women's union in the New England Workingmen's Association.	1845
Militant strikes of women workers rise out of the ten-hour campaign in western Pennsylvania cotton mills.	1845
The Nation's first women's rights convention meets in Seneca Falls, New York. The participants draft the "Declaration of Sentiments" demanding the right to vote and equal legal and economic rights as men.	1848
800 women operatives and 4,000 workmen march during a shoemaker's strike in Lynn, Massachusetts.	1860
Laundresses in Jackson, Mississippi start the first African American women's labor organization and strike to protest low wages.	1866
The National Union for Cigar Makers becomes the first union to accept women and African Americans.	1867

Female cobblers and shoe-stitchers from six different states form the first national women's union/labor organization, the Daughters of St. Crispin in Lynn, Massachusetts.	1869
African American laundresses in Atlanta, Georgia form the Washing Society to fight for higher pay. About 3,000 women strike to increase the price-per-pound of the washing they take in to their homes.	1881
Lucy Gonzales Parsons (1853-1942) and her husband Albert help found the International Working People's Association (IWPA).	1883
Working class and middle class women in Chicago create the Illinois Women's Alliance to fight against sweatshops and child labor.	1888
The Knights of Labor agrees to admit women. Leonora O'Reilly organized a female chapter called the United Garment Workers of America.	1888
Mary Burke is elected first the female Vice President of the Retail Clerks.	1888
Mary Kenney O'Sullivan is the first salaried, national female organizer for the AFL.	1892
A small group of nurses attend the first convention of the Nurses Associated Alumnae of the United States and Canada which became the American Nurses Association (ANA) in 1911.	1896
Agnes Nestor is a leader in a successful strike at a glove factory in Chicago.	1898
Charlotte Perkins Gilman argues that women need to be financially independent from men in her book <i>Women and Economics</i> .	1898
The National Consumers' League is formed to organize women to fight for better working conditions and protective laws. Florence Kelley is president.	1899
The International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) is formed by the amalgamation of seven local unions. At the turn of the century most of the workers in the garment industry are immigrant Jewish women.	1900
Rose Schneiderman starts organizing the women in the cap factory where she works in New York. She and her partner applied to the United Cloth Hat and Cap Makers Union for a charter and attained the necessary membership within 15 days.	1903
The National Women's Trade Union League (WTUL) is established at the AFL convention. The WTUL is based on a British group of the same name that formed thirty years earlier. It's purpose is to help organize women in to unions and support those unions already in existence. Many middle class or affluent women, who were not themselves wage workers, joined.	1903
The Illinois branch of the WTUL passes a resolution to seek Federal investigation of working women's conditions. WTUL lobbies with other women's organizations in Washington, D.C. to introduce a bill to fund such a report in 1906.	1905

Backed by the Women's Trade Union League, several investigations into the conditions of women workers are conducted over 3 years, authorized by the Secretary of Commerce & Labor. The investigations yield 19 volumes of reports unveiling poor conditions, health, and wages of women workers.	1907
African American nurses meet in New York City and found the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses.	1908
In the "Uprising of the 20,000", Jewish and Italian women shirtwaist makers in NYC strike for the union shop. Despite intense solidarity among the city's workers, the strike achieves limited success. Some workers make gains but many return to their sweatshops without gaining union recognition.	1909
In the "Uprising of the 20,000" female shirtwaist makers in New York strike against sweatshop conditions. Some win union recognition, others don't.	1909
Washington State grants suffrage to women.	1910
The IWW leads the "Bread and Roses" strike in Lawrence, Massachusetts to organize the textile mills. This strike of more than 25,000 men, women, and children is frequently referred to as the first successful multi-ethnic strike.	1912
Oregon women win the right to vote.	1912
The Bull Moose Party becomes the first political party to have women's suffrage as part of its platform.	1912
The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, which has been organizing in the telephone industry, accepts telephone operators, who are primarily women.	1912
The Department of Labor establishes a Women's Division as a subdivision of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.	1913
Alice Paul and Lucy Burns established the National Women's Party to work for women's suffrage.	1,916.00
The Council of Defense sets up the Committee on Women in Industry, including WTUL and Consumers League members, to advise it on means of safeguarding the welfare of women workers during World War I.	1917
In July, the first military draft of American men to fight in World War I begins to cause labor shortages. By the fall, the U.S. Employment Service launches a campaign to replace men with women in "every position that a woman is capable of	1917
The Seattle Laundry Workers Union stages a successful strike to force laundry companies to pay union scale wages.	1917
The War Labor Administration sets up a "Woman in Industry Service" (WIS) to address problems connected with more rapid introduction of women into industry. WIS formulates standards for employment of women in war industries, including a 48 hour work week, equal pay, lunch breaks, and sanitation and safety standards.	1918
First International Congress of Working Women meets in Washington, D.C. It later becomes the International Federation of Working Women with the promotion of trade union organization among women as its main priority.	1919
United Mine Worker organizer Fannie Sellins is gunned down in Brackenridge, Pennsylvania while intervening on behalf of Joseph Starzelski, a picketing miner, as he is being beaten by company guards.	1919

The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's (BPW) Clubs are founded.	1919
Labor unions are growing rapidly. Of 60,000 AFL members in Seattle, 10% are women.	1919
In June, Congress establishes the Women's Bureau (WB) in the Department of Labor with a staff of 20 and a budget of \$30,000, under the Directorship of Mary Anderson.	1920
The 19th Amendment to the Constitution is ratified by the states, giving women the right to vote throughout the nation.	1920
The Cable Act declares that female U.S. citizens who marry immigrants who are ineligible for citizenship will lose their own citizenship.	1922
Alice Paul of the National Woman's Party introduces the first proposed amendment to the Constitution on equality for women. The Equal Rights Amendment does not gain enough support to pass.	1923
The Federal Government Classification Act passes. This was an equal pay victory for the Women's Bureau, which exposed hiring and wage discrimination against women in a 1920 report, "Women in the Federal Government." The new law establishes that Government salaries should be determined by job duties and not the sex of employee.	1923
Rose Knox, president of Knox Co., producers of gelatin for food and industrial purposes, begins to oversee her profitable business "in a woman's way." She institutes one of the first 5-day work weeks, keeps her plants clean and pleasant and wins enduring loyalty from her employees.	1925
October stock market crash pushes country into the Great Depression. Unemployment reaches catastrophic levels nationwide. Anne Ronnell is paid \$25 for writing the song, "Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?" about labor organizers and corporate "wolves".	1929
Clara Holden, a National Textiles Union organizer is kidnapped and beaten in Greenville, South Carolina.	1931
Lucy Randolph Mason authors <i>Standards for Workers in Southern Industry</i> to use during her travels throughout the South promoting voluntary employer agreements that incorporated fair labor standards. Mason was a long-time activist for labor laws that would ensure safer workplaces, end child labor, raise minimum wages and shorten work hours. She belonged to the Union Label League and was a frequent speaker to community and labor groups. In 1932, Mason succeeded Florence Kelley as the general secretary of the National Consumers League (NCL), the leading national advocate of fair labor standards. From the 1900s to the 1930s, the NCL worked to pass protective labor laws and to convince consumers to buy only goods and services produced by workers who enjoyed a living wage and decent working conditions.	1931
Section 213 of the Federal Economy Act requires that one spouse resign if both husband and wife are working for the Federal Government. A Women's Bureau study later shows that more than 75 % of those resigning are women. Section 213 remained on the books until 1937.	1932

Frances Perkins is appointed Secretary of Labor by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, making her the first woman member of a presidential cabinet.	1933
The National Council of Negro Women is formed by Mary McLeod Bethune to lobby against racism, sexism, and job discrimination.	1935
The Women's Emergency Brigade forms to support the United Auto Workers' "sit-down strike" at the General Motors Plant in Flint, Michigan.	1936
Clerks and other workers, all women, stage a sit-down strike at the Woolworth store in Detroit, Michigan. They occupied the store for seven days and won on a broad range of issues.	1937
Luisa Moreno, a Guatemalan immigrant, becomes the first Latina Vice President of a major labor union: the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of American (UCAPAWA).	1938
Between 1940 and 1944, more than 6 million women join the civilian labor force, though fully 75% of all women working for wages during the war had worked before.	1940
Slightly more than 11 million women are holding jobs. War in Europe stimulates U.S. production, but men, not women, are first beneficiaries of more jobs.	1940
The National War Labor Board issues an order "permitting" employers to equalize wages paid to women and men for work of comparable quality and quantity; the Federal government lowers the legal working age for women from 18 to 16.	1942
War Production Board announces a need for 1.5 million more women workers within a year. Rosie the Riveter is invented as a propaganda tool to make women want to work in wartime jobs like welding, which had previously been exclusively male-dominated. Rosie is based on a real woman: Rose Will Monroe, an aircraft assembly worker.	1943
Women joined unions in large numbers during the war, in spite of resistance from some trades. Before the war only some 800,000 women belonged to unions (9.4% of total union membership). By 1944, more than 3 million are union members (22% of total).	1944
The Women's Bureau and the WTUL wage an aggressive campaign for the House-sponsored Women's Equal Pay Act.	1945
The Air Line Stewardesses Associations (ALSA) forms, the first union for flight attendants. Their first contract in the following year raised wages, limited hours, set rest periods, and established a grievance procedure.	1945
The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women is formed.	1946
The Women's Bureau publishes its analyses of World War II industrial experiences for women and begins a series of reports on women workers in other countries.	1946
ALSA President Ada Brown, 30, marries and becomes a victim of United Airlines no-marriage rule. She retires from her career and union presidency.	1947

Economic & Social Council of the UN adopts the principle that women should receive the same pay as men for equal work.	1948
Washington State passes a law against discrimination in employment.	1949
The Women's Bureau investigates the future of women in the police force.	1949
Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers sponsors first postwar conference of any major union on the problems facing women workers.	1949
Women are 29% of the total workforce; 32% of working-age women have jobs and nearly half are married.	1950
The Women's Trade Union League is dissolved.	1950
A coalition of civic groups, women's organizations, labor and employer organizations, including the Women's Bureau, form a National Committee for Equal Pay and hold a conference. The Women's Bureau publishes the conference's report.	1952
Women in Construction of Fort Worth, Texas is founded and later evolves in to the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC).	1953
The White House holds a Conference on Effective Use of Womanpower, in which the Women's Bureau plays a major role. It explores sex-stereotypes as limits to opportunities for women and makes suggestions for increasing women's labor participation.	1955
Women earn 63.9 cents to every male dollar.	1955
100,000 striking ILGWU members in eight states win the required use of the union label to identify union-made textiles.	1958
The Women's Bureau begins to promote women working in the scientific professions.	1959
Women make up 33% of the total work force; 30.5 % of married women work for wages, contributing about 26% of total family income. One-third of all wage-earning women hold clerical jobs. Nearly 80 % of wage-earning women hold jobs stereotyped as "female."	1960
Women earn 60.7 cents to every male dollar, a decrease of 3.2 cents. (annual earnings)	1960
Presidential memorandum bars discrimination against women in Federal Civil Service hiring and promotions policies.	1962
The Commission on the Status of Women report leads to the passage of the Equal Pay Act. The Equal Pay Act, signed by John F. Kennedy, made it illegal to pay different wages to men and women who performed the same work.	1963
Congress passes Civil Rights Act, including Title VII, which prohibits firms with 14 or more employees from discriminating on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. It establishes the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to implement the law.	1964

Women earn 59.9 cents to every male dollar, a decrease of .8 cents. (annual earnings)	1965
The National Organization for Women (NOW) is founded by activist Betty Friedan to end sex-based discrimination.	1966
President Lyndon B. Johnson's affirmative action policy of 1965 is expanded by Executive Order 11375 to cover gender discrimination.	1967
The Supreme Court hears <i>Bowe v. Colgate-Palmolive</i> and rules that any woman who meets the physical requirements can work in jobs that were once male-only.	1968
Sex-segregated want ads in newspapers are deemed illegal.	1968
Mary Moultrie and over 300 African American female hospital workers strike in Charleston, South Carolina for 113 days. They formed Local 1199B, which is affiliated with the New York Local 1199 of the Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Workers. Despite agreeing to many of the workers' demands, including a grievance procedure and the rehiring of fired union activists, hospital management refuses to formally recognize the union. Membership in 1199B drops over the next few years.	1969
The EEOC declares legislation that had previously protected only women workers invalid.	1969
The EEOC files charges against AT&T for discrimination on the basis of sex, race and national origin.	1970
40.8% of women are in the labor force.	1970
Women are 12% of all union members. There is an increase of nearly 80% of women in the skilled trades compared to 1960—still, their participation accounts for only 2-3% of total workers in those trades. This percentage has remained largely unchanged for the past 40 years	1970
Women earn 62.3 cents to every male dollar (based on weekly earnings for wage and salary workers from here forward).	1970
"Women's Strike for Equality"—women demonstrate in cities across the country to observe the 50th anniversary of women's suffrage and to highlight demands including equal opportunity in jobs and education.	1970
The first national conference of domestic workers meets, calling for "pay, protection, and professionalism" for household domestic workers.	1971
The U.S. Department of Labor rules require government contractors to take positive action on discrimination against women. Such rules and acts help spur affirmative action laws.	1971
Ruth Bader Ginsberg founds the Women's Rights Project (WRP) of the ACLU which focuses on assisting and empowering poor women, women of color, and immigrant women.	1972
"9 to 5" is founded in Boston; it eventually becomes a national association of working women employed in banks, publishing houses, insurance companies, colleges and universities, and other workplaces.	1972

The Joint Resolution of the U.S. House & Senate that becomes the Equal Rights Amendment (E.R.A) is adopted and presented to the states for ratification.	1972
Title IX is passed. It states that “no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” This act greatly increases young female participation in sports.	1972
The Secretary of Labor orders the Women's Bureau to coordinate all Department activities concerning women, designating its Director as special counsel to the Secretary.	1972
20% of first year medical students are women, compared to 13.5% the year before; 12% of first year law students are women, compared to less than 5% in 1967.	1972
Two African American women food service workers at the University of Washington lead a wildcat strike that results in an historic court decision mandating equal pay for equal working similar conditions.	1973
The Fair Labor Standards Act is extended to cover domestic workers, giving them minimum wage and overtime protections which are rarely enforced. An exemption to the law continued to exclude casual babysitters and companions for the elderly, and granted only minimum wage protections without overtime to live-in domestic workers.	1974
Karen Gay Silkwood, an officer of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers Union, dies mysteriously on her way from a union meeting to meet with a <i>NY Times</i> reporter regarding exposure of workers at Kerr-McGee to radioactive contamination, faulty respiratory equipment and improper storage of samples.	1974
The Women's Bureau and Department of Labor help to finance the First Trade Union Women's Conference in New York City, which leads to the formation of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW).	1974
The Federation of Women Telephone Workers of Southern California (FWTW) merges with CWA. Its President, Dina Beaumont, became the first female CWA Vice President in over two decades.	1974
Court rules that Northwest Airlines must pay female flight attendants the same scale as males.	1974
The ANA establishes a fund to be used to promote ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. The ANA's Affirmative Action Task Force holds two regional conferences on improving nursing care and health care delivery for people of color and on promoting affirmative action programs in nursing.	1975
42% of women are in the workforce, an increase of 1.2%. As economic recession deepens women are the hardest hit by unemployment.	1975
Women earn 62.0 cents to every male dollar, a decrease of .3 cents.	1975
Publication of <i>Pink Collar Workers</i> by Louise Kapp Howe, coins this new term to highlight continuing sex-segregation of women in low paying jobs.	1977

Women make up 27.6% of all union members, due to increased efforts to organize clerical, office, hospital and other workers in predominantly female occupations.	1977
CWA holds its first annual National Women's Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Resolutions on the Equal Rights Amendment, child care and job pressures are presented to the CWA Executive Board.	1978
Washington Women in the Trades is founded to improve women's economic equity and self-sufficiency through access and success in high-wage, high-skilled careers in the construction, manufacturing and transportation sectors.	1978
Department of Labor's affirmative action guidelines, 77-78, expand opportunities for women in apprenticeships and construction work. A goal of hiring women into 6.9% of federal funded construction projects is set, but never met.	1978
100,000 people in Washington, D.C. march in support of the Equal Rights Amendment.	1978
The Women's Bureau's focus expands to include training programs for women in prisons.	1978
Tradeswomen, Inc. is founded in California to recruit and retain more women in the building and construction trades, and develop women's leadership in their crafts and unions.	1979
The Women's Bureau director testifies for an amendment to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, banning discrimination in employment based on pregnancy.	1979
Executive Order 12138 establishes national Policy on Women's Business Enterprise, directing federal agencies to establish goals for contract awards to women-owned businesses.	1979
The Women's Bureau begins funding programs for career counseling and occupational training of displaced homemakers, women without recent paid work experience or skills.	1979
The first United Food and Commercial Workers Women's Affairs, Civil Rights and Political Action Conference is held in Washington, D.C.	1980
The Women's Bureau participates in the Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD) Conference on the Employment of Women in Paris, the first cabinet and ministry level meeting of officials from 24 countries to address women's issues.	1980
47.7% of women are in the labor force. While more than 42 million women are working for wages, 80% of them remain in traditionally female jobs.	1980
Women earn 64.3 cents to every male dollar, an increase of 2.3 cents.	1980
Following a nine-day strike in San Jose, CA, AFSCME wins \$1.5 million in a comparable worth campaign to correct pay disparities between jobs dominated by men, and those dominated by women in city employment.	1981
Born out of Carpenters Union potlucks and pickets, Chicago Women in the Trades is formed to support and train women in skilled, high-wage nontraditional careers.	1981

Women earn 64.5 cents to every male dollar, a decrease of .2 cents.	1981
The Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. constitution is defeated when only 35 states pass the measure, three short of the 38 required for ratification.	1982
Women earn 65.5 cents to every male dollar, an increase of 1 cent.	1982
AFSCME's Women's Rights Department is established.	1983
Women are 32% of all union members.	1983
Women earn 66.6 cents to every male dollar, an increase of 1.4 cents.	1983
The Emergency Mathematics and Science Education and Jobs Act provides set-asides from funds provided to State educational agencies for special projects for underrepresented and underserved populations, including girls and women.	1984
The Retirement Equity Act of 1984 makes it easier for women workers and surviving spouses of workers to collect retirement benefits under private pension plans.	1984
Women earn 67.6 cents to every male dollar, an increase of 1 cent.	1984
The Women's Bureau begins replication of Project Discovery, a pilot program to help first-time job seekers or those seeking to re-enter the workplace, focusing on women of color aged 35-50.	1985
A national Women In Non-traditional Careers (WINC) conference is held for young professionals and students. One of the main goals of this conference is to help women enter math and science-related fields of study and work.	1985
For the first time, more than half of all women aged 16 and over are participating in the labor force at 50.4%, an increase of 2.7%.	1985
Women earn 68.2 cents to every male dollar, an increase of .6 cents.	1985
AFSCME wins a \$106.5 million settlement in its Comparable Worth sex discrimination suit on behalf of female employees of Washington State agencies.	1986
1,700 female flight attendants won an 18-year lawsuit (which included \$37 million in damages) against United Airlines, which had fired them for getting married.	1986
The Tax Reform Act of 1986 removes many working poor from tax rolls and gives higher standard deduction to single heads of household. This benefits many poor women and women who are single parents.	1986
The Department of Labor's Ministry-to-Ministry Program holds a seminar on women's issues in Israel. Topics included work and family, child care, single-parent families, and women's labor force participation.	1986

Women earn 69.3 cents to every male dollar, a decrease of 1.1 cents.	1986
Women earn 69.9 cents to every male dollar, an increase of .6 cents.	1987
The Civil Rights Restoration Act restores broad scope of coverage and clarifies application of Title IX of the Education Amendments and other nondiscrimination laws pertaining to entities receiving federal financial assistance.	1988
In a comparable worth campaign, AFSCME Iowa Council 61 scores a \$1.3 million win for AFSCME state employees victimized by sex-based pay discrimination.	1988
The Women's Business Ownership Act amends the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to add particular business loans to those already covered and funds demonstration projects to provide training and management assistance to women in business or entering business.	1988
Women are 33% of all union members, an increase of 1%.	1988
Women earn 70.1 cents to every male dollar, an increase of .2 cents.	1988
Oregon Tradeswomen forms to promote success for women in the trades through education, leadership and mentorship.	1989
Earth First! and IWW Local 1 organizer Judi Bari is severely injured after a pipe bomb goes off in her car. The FBI and Oakland Police are quick to accuse Bari and fellow organizer Darryl Cherney of knowingly carrying the bomb with intent to use, despite numerous death threats Bari received because of her organizing against the timber industry.	1990
The UFCW Women's Network holds the first Mother's Day Walmart protests.	1990
54.3% of women are in the labor force, an increase of 3.9%.	1990
55.6% of women are in the labor force, an increase of 1.3%.	1995
The Fuerza Laboral Feminina, the Women's Committee of The Workplace Project, a Worker's Center on Long Island in NY, kicks off a campaign to get agencies that refer immigrant women to domestic jobs to sign the Domestic Worker's Bill of Rights.	1997
Pride At Work, a national coalition of LGBTQ workers and their supporters becomes an AFL-CIO constituency group.	1997
Women are 39% of all union members, no change.	1998
In Los Angeles County, over 74,000 home health care workers – mostly women - are unionized by the Service Employees International Union Local 434B.	1999

57.5% of women are in the labor force, an increase of 1.9%.	2000
Women earn 77.9 cents to every male dollar, compared to 70.1 cents in 1988. At this rate of progress women will not achieve wage parity for more than 50 years.	2002
Domestic Workers United, a coalition of domestic workers organizations in New York City, gets the NY City Council to adopt the Domestic Worker's Bill of Rights, calling for overtime pay, guaranteed rest periods, and protections against sexual and racial harassment.	2003
Women are 42% of all union members, an increase of 3%.	2003
Resolution 2 is passed at the AFL-CIO convention. Submitted by the Executive Council, this resolution recognizes that the leadership of unions in the U.S. is not representative of the membership in terms of race, gender, and age. It calls on unions to take specific steps to bring more women, people of color, and young workers into leadership positions.	2005
56.2% of women are in the labor force, a decrease of 1.3%	2005
Sisters in the Building Trades forms to provide mentoring and support to trades women in Washington State.	2006
56.6% of women are in the labor force, a decrease of .9%.	2006
Missouri Women in Trades begins as an informal group; incorporates two years later as a chapter of NAWIC.	2006
The domestic partners registry signed into law in Washington State provides some legal benefits for same-sex couples, but stops short of providing all the benefits of marriage.	2007
Women are 44% of all union members, an increase of 1%. At current unionization rates, women will soon be the majority of union members.	2007
Women comprise 46.5% of the total U.S. labor force.	2008
Women earn 80 cents to every male dollar.	2008
Governor Christine Gregoire signs legislation giving registered same-sex domestic partners all the rights and benefits that Washington State offers married couples.	2009
President Barak Obama signs into law the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act which amends the Civil Rights Act of 1964, giving victims of wage discrimination a new 180-day period for filing an equal-pay lawsuit with each new discriminatory paycheck.	2009
President Obama establishes the White House Council on Women and Girls to ensure that American women and girls are treated fairly in all matters of public policy like equal pay, family leave, child care and others. He emphasizes that these are not just women's issues, they are family issues and economic issues.	2009