“We Stand on their Shoulders”
A History of Wisconsin Women and Voting

Answer the following questions based upon the information you see on the panels:

1. What idea did James Magone of Milwaukee propose at the Wisconsin Constitutional Convention in 1846? What was the response of the other delegates to his proposal? (Leave off the word “male” before “suffrage”. The other delegates laughed at the idea.)

2. Who was allowed to vote when the U.S. was founded? (land owning white men over the age of 21)

3. In what year was the Voting Rights Act enacted in the U.S.? (1965)

4. Which city hosted the first universal suffrage convention in Wisconsin? (Janesville)

5. Which other states ratified the 19th Amendment on the same date as Wisconsin? (Illinois and Michigan)

6. Which Wisconsin suffragist attempted to vote in a municipal election in 1887? (Reverend Olympia Brown)

7. Which Wisconsin Senator from Richland Center introduced a bill to give women full suffrage? In what year? (David James in 1911)

8. On what date did Wisconsin legislators vote to ratify the 19th Amendment? On what date was that vote certified in Washington D.C.? (June 10, 1919 / June 13, 1919)

9. What landmark amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution was passed in 1921? (Equal Rights Amendment)

10. How was the Voting Rights Act strengthened in 1970, 1975, and 1982? (1970-It specifically banned the use of tests to discriminate against voters. 1975-It was clarified to include language minorities. 1982-It added a provision to prohibit any discriminatory voting laws.)
11. In what year was the Indian Citizenship Act passed? In what year did all American Indians gain the right to vote?
   
   (1924 / 1962)

12. Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted voting rights to all men?
   
   (15th)

13. Which Wisconsin woman was offered to succeed her deceased husband as a U.S. Senator in 1925? Who was her husband?
   
   (Belle Case LaFollette / Robert “Fighting Bob” LaFollette)

14. In what year did Wisconsin voters defeat a referendum giving African American men the right to vote?
   
   (1857)

15. In 1886, Wisconsin women were given the right to vote in which type of elections?
   
   (elections pertaining to school matters)

16. Who was Ho-poe-kaw and why was she important?
   
   (She was the leader of a Ho-Chunk village for 40 years starting in 1727.)

17. What is Somos Latinas?
   
   (An oral history project to capture the voices of Latina activists in Wisconsin)

18. How many states were needed to ratify the 19th Amendment?
   
   (36: 3/4th of the states are needed to ratify an amendment to the U.S. Constitution)

19. What Wisconsin suffragist organization was formed in 1912 to advocate for passage of a referendum on women’s suffrage? Were they successful?
   
   (The Political Equity League. They were not successful. The referendum was defeated by a vote of 135,736 to 227,054)

20. Who was president of the Wisconsin Woman Suffrage Association in 1916?
   
   (Theodora Winton Youmans)