

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

2020 NJ History Conference Friday, November 13, 2020



BATTLES FOR THE BALLOT NEW JERSEY VOTING RIGHTS, THEN AND NOW

PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE PROGRAM



Photograph Credits (left to right): Cabinet card portrait of Thomas Mundy Peterson, Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture; Suffrage envoys from San Francisco greeted in New Jersey on their way to Washington to present a petition to Congress, Records of the National Woman's Party, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.; Photograph by Donna Connor Photography, Courtesy of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey.

Schedule at a Glance

TIME	EVENT	VIRTUAL LOCATION
9:00– 10:30 a.m.	<p>Welcome and Special Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Cureton, Executive Director, New Jersey Historical Commission • Tahesha Way, New Jersey Secretary of State <p>Keynote Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ari Berman, Senior Reporter, <i>Mother Jones</i> • Ryan P. Haygood, CEO & President, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice • Martha S. Jones, Society of Black Alumni Presidential Professor and Professor of History, Johns Hopkins University 	Zoom link to come
10:35– 11:05 a.m.	Virtual Book Signing	Zoom link to come
10:50 a.m.– 12:05 p.m.	<p>Morning Panel Sessions</p> <p>New Jersey Women's Suffrage: Its Many Faces</p> <p>African Americans and Voting before the 15th Amendment</p>	Zoom link to come
12:10– 1:00 p.m.	<p>New Jersey Historical Commission Awards & Prizes</p> <p>Virtual Exhibition Tour</p>	Zoom link to come
1:05– 2:20 p.m.	<p>Afternoon Panel Sessions I</p> <p>Voting in Times of Crisis: Documenting the 2020 Election</p> <p>Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage</p>	Zoom link to come
2:25– 3:40 p.m.	<p>Afternoon Panel Sessions II</p> <p>Protest and Controversy in New Jersey Political History</p> <p>New Jersey Women: Electing and Elected</p>	Zoom link to come
3:50– 4:30 p.m.	Post-Election Breakout Discussions	Zoom link to come

Take a look at this year's **Posters & Projects Session** by clicking [here](#) to see some of the latest research on New Jersey history. We encourage you to submit comments and questions that the poster and project contributors can respond to at a later date.

9:00–10:30 a.m. Welcome and Special Remarks, Keynote Panel ([link to come](#))

Welcome and Special Remarks

- Sara Cureton, Executive Director, New Jersey Historical Commission
- Tahesha Way, New Jersey Secretary of State

Keynote Panel



Ari Berman is a Senior Reporter at *Mother Jones*, Reporting Fellow at Type Media Center, winner of an Izzy Award for outstanding achievement in independent media, and author of *Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America*, *Herding Donkeys: The Fight to Rebuild the Democratic Party and Reshape American Politics*, and the forthcoming *Minority Rule*.



Ryan P. Haygood is President & CEO of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice. A nationally respected civil rights lawyer who has litigated some of the most important civil and voting rights cases of our time, Mr. Haygood leverages his expertise to advance the Institute's work to empower New Jersey's communities of color through criminal justice reform and expanding democracy and economic justice in the Garden State.



Martha S. Jones is the Society of Black Alumni Presidential Professor and Professor of History at Johns Hopkins University. She is a legal and cultural historian whose work examines how Black Americans have shaped the story of American democracy. Professor Jones is the author of *Birthright Citizens: A History of Race and Rights in Antebellum America* and *Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Fought for Rights for All*.

10:35–11:05 a.m. Virtual Book Signing ([link to come](#))

Join us for a virtual book signing with keynote speakers **Ari Berman**, author of the forthcoming *Minority Rule*, and **Martha S. Jones**, author of *Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Fought for Rights for All*, published this September. Attendees will have the chance to meet both authors online by signing up as part of registration. Space is limited. Signed books can be ordered through the [Asbury Book Cooperative](#). Some customers will receive signed bookplates separately, to be inserted into the books.

10:50 a.m.–12:05 p.m. Morning Panel Sessions

New Jersey Women's Suffrage: Its Many Faces [\(link to come\)](#)

Moderator: Erica Ryan, Associate Professor of History and Director of the Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, Rider University

- Betty Livingston Adams, Professor of History (retired), Rutgers University
- Lisa Hendrickson, Independent Historian
- George Robb, Professor of History, William Paterson University

African Americans and Voting before the 15th Amendment [\(link to come\)](#)

Moderator: Jason R. Ambrose, Associate Professor of History, William Paterson University

- **“Robert Aaron, an African American Voter in 18th-Century New Jersey”**
Nancy Piwowar, President of the Board of Trustees, Historical Society of Plainfield and Drake House Museum
- **“Newark’s Black Activists’ 1866 Landmark Movement for the Right to Vote”**
Noelle Lorraine Williams, Consultant, Newark Public Library, and Independent Artist and Scholar

12:10–1:00 p.m. Awards & Prizes, Virtual Exhibition Tour [\(link to come\)](#)

NJ Historical Commission Awards & Prizes

- **Awards of Recognition**
 - Derek Davis, Trustee, Camden County Historical Society
 - Claire Garland, Director, Sand Hill Indian Historical Association
 - Kristin O’Brassill-Kulfan, Assistant Teaching Professor and Coordinator of Public History, Rutgers University–New Brunswick
 - The South Jersey Culture & History Center at Stockton University
- **Richard P. McCormick Prize (in partnership with the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance)**
 - Noriko Matsumoto, Senior Lecturer in Sociology, University of Vermont, for *Beyond the City and the Bridge: East Asian Immigration in a New Jersey Suburb*
- **Richard J. Hughes Award**
 - Thomas D’Amico, Supervising Planner, County of Somerset

Virtual Exhibition Tour

We partnered with [New Jersey Digital Highway](#) to produce a virtual exhibition on New Jersey voting rights history. The public can use this platform to engage with documents, images, multimedia, and other primary sources used to study “battles for the ballot” in New Jersey. This virtual tour will introduce the exhibition and feature contributors discussing items on display. The exhibition will remain a permanent online resource.

1:05–2:20 p.m. Afternoon Panel Sessions I

Voting in Times of Crisis: Documenting the 2020 Election ([link to come](#))

Moderator: Ann D. Gordon, Research Professor Emerita, Department of History, Rutgers University–New Brunswick

- Kristin O’Brassill-Kulfan, Assistant Teaching Professor and Coordinator of Public History, Rutgers University–New Brunswick
- Andrew Urban, Associate Professor of American Studies and History, Rutgers University–New Brunswick
- Student speakers—to be announced

Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Women’s Suffrage ([link to come](#))

Moderator: Laura Troiano, Assistant Professor of Professional Practice and Acting Director of the Honors College, Rutgers University–Newark

- Carol Simon Levin, Professional Storyteller and Independent Historian
- Susanna Rich, Poet and Producer, Wild Nights Productions, LLC
- Beth Zak-Cohen, Librarian, Newark Public Library

2:25–3:40 p.m. Afternoon Panel Sessions II

Protest and Controversy in New Jersey Political History ([link to come](#))

Moderator: Lucia McMahon, Professor of History, William Paterson University

- **“The Broad Seal War: New Jersey’s Contested Election of 1838 and Subsequent Loss of Representation in the U.S. House of Representatives”**
Ronald Becker, Professor Emeritus, Rutgers University Libraries
- **“Patriotism and Protest: The Story of Joseph T. Angelo and the Bonus March”**
Phillip Papas, Senior Professor of History, Union County College
Michele Rotunda, Assistant Professor of History, Union County College

New Jersey Women: Electing and Elected ([link to come](#))

Moderator: Maxine N. Lurie, Professor Emerita, Seton Hall University

- **“The Issue of Women’s Voting Rights in 18th-Century New Jersey and Beyond”**
Linda Garbaye, Assistant Professor of American History, Clermont Auvergne University
- **“Widows in Office: Elected to a Dead Husband’s Seat, 1920–1940”**
Katherine Parkin, Professor of History, Monmouth University

3:50–4:30 p.m. Post-Election Breakout Discussions ([link to come](#))

Facilitators:

- Lori Outzs Borgen, Director, Center for Social Justice, Seton Hall School of Law
- Greer Luce, Chief Communications Officer, New Jersey Historical Commission
- Madeleine Rosenberg, Chief Public Historian, New Jersey Historical Commission
- Andrew Urban, Associate Professor of American Studies and History, Rutgers University–New Brunswick

Whether or not the results are still in process, the outcome of the 2020 U.S. presidential election and the ongoing struggle for voting rights will shape our conversations at this year's NJ History Conference. To provide a platform for framing the election and exploring it through constructive dialogue, we have scheduled time for breakout discussions at the end of the program. Please join us for informal, facilitated conversations to share your thoughts, ask questions, discuss context and implications, and connect with other conference attendees.



Photograph Credits (left to right): Three women installing a sign advertising a suffrage event featuring Anna Howard Shaw, Long Branch Casino, August 26, 1915, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Three African American women at a polling place, one looking at a book of registered voters on November 5, 1957, in New York City or Newark, New Jersey, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; African American and white supporters of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party holding signs in front of the convention hall at the 1964 Democratic National Convention, Atlantic City, New Jersey, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The New Jersey Historical Commission is grateful for the participation of the 2020 conference speakers, moderators, and attendees. We particularly appreciate the generous support of our sponsors, partners, and the members of this year's Conference Planning Committee. Thank you!

2020 NJ History Conference Planning Committee

Jason R. Ambrose
William Paterson University

Larry Greene
Seton Hall University

Eugene Mazo
Rutgers Law School

Andrew Urban
Rutgers University

Lori Outzs Borgen
Seton Hall School of Law

Elizabeth Hyde
Kean University

Lucia McMahon
William Paterson University

Hettie Williams
Monmouth University

Veronica Calder
New Jersey State Archives

John Johnson
Saint Peters University

C. Brid Nicholson
Kean University

Melissa Ziobro
Monmouth University

Jayne Carmody
Rumson Country Day School

Maxine N. Lurie
Seton Hall University

Richard Veit
Monmouth University