Aug. 31, 1920

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was Aug. 31, 1920, the day that saw Marie Byrum become the first woman in Missouri to vote.

Only five days’ before, the 19th Amendment — which allowed women the right to vote — had been signed into law. Missouri senators had previously ratified the 19th Amendment on July 3, 1919.

A special election had been called for Aug. 31, 1920, in Hannibal. The purpose was to fill a vacancy on the city’s board of aldermen.

It was a rainy day, but that didn’t stop Marie Byrum from making her way to the polls to cast her vote. She was no stranger to the election process, as she was the daughter-in-law of a Hannibal party committee member.

Just a minute later, the second woman to vote in Missouri would cast her ballot as well, in the same election.

And, it happened on Aug. 31, 1920, the date marking the first vote taken by a Missouri woman — Marie Byrum — on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: Missouri Historical Review and the *Hannibal Courier-Post*)