

The New Hampshire Republican Party was founded on October 12, 1853 by Amos Tuck in Exeter, New Hampshire – the earliest known date a Republican Party was formed, making New Hampshire the Birthplace of the national Republican Party. Since its founding, Republicans have been on the forefront of efforts to advance civil rights for all.

Here are a few Republicans who have contributed to that effort.

AMOS TUCK: Founder of the Anti-Slavery Republican Party

Called the first convention of what became the Republican Party in 1853, with a platform to end slavery.

Amos Tuck (1810–1879) was a political figure in New Hampshire and a founder of the Republican Party. Tuck was elected to the New Hampshire House of Representatives in 1842 as a member of the Democratic Party but broke with pro-slavery Democratic leaders in 1844 and was formally cast out of the party. In 1845 he called a convention to form an independent movement in favor of an anti-slavery Congressional Candidate. This convention would later be identified as "the nucleus of the Republican Party. On October 12, 1853 Tuck organized a meeting of anti-slavery advocates and suggested they form a party to be called "Republicans." He helped form the state Republican Party in 1856 and was a delegate to the Republican National Conventions in 1856 and 1860. Tuck was instrumental in the founding the Republican Party and of its Platform committed to ending slavery.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN: Emancipation Proclamation to Abolish Slavery

Abraham Lincoln (February 12, 1809 – April 15, 1865) was the 16th president of the United States, from March 1861 until his assassination. Lincoln led the United States through its Civil War, preserved the Union, abolished slavery, strengthened the federal government, and modernized the economy.

Lincoln was a self-educated lawyer in Illinois, a state legislator during the 1830s, and a one-term member of Congress in the 1840s. After a series of highly publicized debates in 1858, during which Lincoln spoke out against the expansion of slavery, he lost the U.S. Senate race to his archrival, Democrat Stephen A. Douglas. Lincoln secured the Republican Party presidential nomination and was elected president in 1860.

HIRAM RHODES REVELS: First African American US Senator.

Hiram Rhodes Revels (September 27, 1827 – January 16, 1901) was the first African American to serve in the US Senate, representing Mississippi in 1870 and 1871. During the Civil War, he helped organize two regiments of the United States Colored Troops and served as a chaplain. During Reconstruction, Revels was elected alderman in Natchez and then to the Mississippi State Senate, which in 1870, elected Revels to finish the term of one of the states US Senators. Democrats opposed seating him in the Senate.

On February 25, 1870, Revels became the first African American in the United States Senate (and in the U.S. Congress) after a party-line vote with only Republicans in favor and only Democrats opposed.

JOHN LYNCH: First African American elected as Speaker of the Mississippi House.

John Roy Lynch was born into slavery in 1847. After Emancipation he joined the Republican Party and was elected to the Mississippi State House in 1869 and elected as Speaker in 1872. He was among the first African Americans elected to the U.S House of Representatives, serving from 1874 through 1882.

Lynch gave the keynote address at the 1884 Republican National Convention as Chair of that Convention. He chaired the Mississippi Republican Party from 1881 to 1889 and was the Republican National Committeeman for Mississippi from 1884 to 1889.

REPUBLICANS AND CIVIL RIGHTS

October 10, 2023

CHARLES SUMNER: The 1875 Civil Rights Act

Charles Sumner (January 6, 1811 – March 11, 1874), a Republican senator from Massachusetts was the leader of the antislavery forces in his state and of the Republicans in the United States Senate during the American Civil War, working to destroy the Confederacy and free all slaves.

In 1856, a South Carolina Congressman, Preston Brooks (D), nearly killed Sumner on the Senate floor two days after Sumner delivered an anti-slavery speech called "The Crime against Kansas".

During Reconstruction, Sumner fought to minimize the power of the ex-Confederates and to provide equal civil and voting rights for the freedmen. On his deathbed in 1874, Sumner told a Republican colleague: "You must take care of the civil rights bill – my bill, the civil rights bill. Don't let it fail."

In March 1875, the Republican-controlled 43rd Congress passed the most comprehensive civil rights legislation ever. President Ulysses Grant signed the bill into law that same day. Among its provisions, the 1875 Civil Rights Act banned racial discrimination in public accommodations.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY & ELIZABETH CADY STANTON: Women's suffrage and rights

Republicans Stanton and Anthony wrote the text of the 19th Amendment, which was introduced by Republican Senator Aaron A. Sargent of California in 1878. The Amendment was finally ratified in 1920.

Susan Brownell Anthony (Feb. 15, 1820 - March 13, 1906) and Elizabeth Cady Stanton (Nov. 12, 1815 - March 13, 1906) were American social reformers who were pivotal in the women's suffrage movement. Born into Quaker families committed to social equality, each became involved in the anti-slavery movement. In 1863, they created the Women's Loyal National League to end slavery in the United States. The war over, Stanton's and Anthony's signatures headed the petition for the first national organization, the American Equal Rights Association, to gain universal suffrage, a federal guarantee to vote for all citizens..

In 1878 Anthony and Elizabeth Stanton arranged for Congress to be presented with an amendment giving women the right to vote. Popularly known as the Anthony Amendment, it was introduced by California Republican Senator Aaron A. Sargent. The 19th amendment was ratified in 1920.

OCTAVIANO LARRAZOLO: First Hispanic US Senator

Octavio Ambrosio Larrazolo (December 7, 1859 – April 7, 1930) served as the fourth Governor of New Mexico and a United States Senator. In 1911, Larrazolo changed his political affiliations to Republican after the State Convention of the Democratic Party denied his request that half of all statewide nominees be Hispanic to represent the 60 percent of the population of New Mexico that was Hispanic.

He was elected Governor in 1918 and served two years. He was elected to the New Mexico House in 1927 and 1928. After election for the remaining six months of the term of a deceased Senator, he became the first Hispanic elected to the United States Senate. Larrazolo did not seek reelection due to illness.

JESSIE OWENS: Olympian who won four gold medals at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin

Jesse Owens became the first American track & field athlete to win four gold medals in a single Olympiad at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, disproving Hitler's belief that the Games show that "Aryan" people were the dominant race. Owens joined the Republican Party after returning from Europe.

Franklin Roosevelt, afraid that he would lose votes, never invited Jesse Owens to the White House following the Olympic Games. Owens said, "Hitler didn't snub me – it was FDR who snubbed me. The president didn't even send me a telegram." Neither did President Truman (D). In 1955, President Eisenhower named Owens an "Ambassador of Sports." In 1976, President Gerald Ford presented Owens with the Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States.

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BRANCH RICKEY: Major League Owner/Manager who broke the MLB “Color Barrier” in 1945

Republican owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers who broke Major League Baseball's color barrier by signing African American player Jackie Robinson and drafting the first Afro-Hispanic superstar, Roberto Clemente.

Wesley Branch Rickey (December 20, 1881 – December 9, 1965) was an innovative Major League Baseball (MLB) executive elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1967. Rickey struggled as a player, returned to college, and then to a successful Major League managing and executive career. He created the modern league farm system, encouraged new Major League teams and introduced the batting helmet.

HIRAM FONG: First Asian-American U.S. Senator

Hiram Leong Fong (October 15, 1906 – August 18, 2004) was a Republican United States Senator from 1959 to 1977, the first Asian American and Chinese American to be elected in Hawaii. In 1964, Fong became the first Asian American to run for his party's nomination for President of the United States. He is the only Republican to ever hold a Senate seat from Hawaii.

EVERETT DIRKSEN: The 1964 Civil Rights Act

Republican Senators under the leadership of Senator Dirksen ended a Democrat filibuster to enable passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Everett McKinley Dirksen represented Illinois in the U.S. House (1933–1949) and Senate (1951–1969). As Senate Minority Leader for a decade, he played a highly visible and key role in helping to write and pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964. After being held up in the Democrat House majority, the bill was passed and sent to the Senate in February 1964. Passage depended on getting the Senate to vote to end debate and bring a bill to a vote. During the Senate debate, Democrats offered over 500 amendments designed to weaken the bill. Then 19 Senators (18 Democrats and one Republican) launched a filibuster to prevent its passage. The 60 day filibuster was led by Democrats Al Gore, Sr. and Strom Thurmon. Republican Minority Leader Dirksen led the Republican Senators to vote (by 27 to 6, or 82%) to end the filibuster and the Senate voted on the bill on June 19, 1964. It passed overwhelmingly.

SANDRA DAY O’CONNOR: Associate Justice of the US Supreme Court

Sandra Day O'Connor (born March 26, 1930) is a retired American lawyer, former politician, and jurist who served as the first female associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States from 1981 to 2006. She was both the first woman nominated and the first confirmed to the court.

Prior to O'Connor's tenure on the Court, she was a judge and an elected official in Arizona, serving as the first female majority leader of a state senate as the Republican leader in the Arizona Senate. Upon her nomination to the Court, O'Connor was confirmed unanimously by the Senate.

CONDELEEZA RICE: US Secretary of State

"My father joined our party (Republican) because the Democrats in Jim Crow Alabama of 1952 would not register him to vote, The Republicans did!" She became a republican in 1982

Condoleezza Rice (born November 14, 1954), an American political scientist and diplomat, served as the United States Secretary of State in the administration of President George W. Bush. Rice was the first female African-American secretary of state. She was President Bush's National Security Advisor during his first term, the first woman to serve in that position. Rice also served on the National Security Council as the Soviet and Eastern Europe Affairs Advisor to President George H.W. Bush during the dissolution of the Soviet Union and German reunification. As Secretary of State, Rice pioneered a policy of expanding the number of responsible democratic governments in the world and especially in the Greater Middle East.