**MENTIONS NEW MEXICO**

**The 100 YEAR MINUTE**

100 years ago, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified by the required ¾ of all the States, which was 36 states at the time. The 19th amendment prohibits the states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of sex. This allowed women across the country to vote and to have a voice in how they were governed.

The Amendment was adopted on August 18, 1920.

The first state to ratify was Illinois. The last (#36) was Tennessee. New Mexico was #32.

**The 100 YEAR MINUTE**

This year we’re celebrating the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution which guaranteed women across the country the right to vote. But, since the states had been able to set their own individual qualifications for voting rights, a lot had always depended upon where you lived. For instance, women in Wyoming were able to vote when it first became a Territory, 50 years before the 19th Amendment. Women in the Utah, Washington, and Montana Territories were early voters as well.

But, the women in New Mexico, in contrast, had to wait until passage of the 19th Amendment before their state recognized their guaranteed right to vote.

**100 YEAR MINUTE**

100 years ago, the 19th Amendment was passed, giving women the right to vote. A Santa Fe woman, Nina Otero Warren, worked hard to see this happen.

Nina was born in the 1800’s to a wealthy Spanish American family. One of her close relatives became the Governor of the Territory of New Mexico. She had the best education a wealthy girl could have, first with private tutors and then attending a boarding school. But, because she was a girl, her education stopped at age 13.

She was expected to marry young and take care of her home and family. Working for a political cause was unthinkable. Nina had other ideas. Living in Santa Fe at the time, she was instrumental in involving influential Spanish American women and men in the suffrage issue which was critical to New Mexico’s legislature ratifying the 19th Amendment – the 32nd state to do so.

**THE 100 YEAR MINUTE**

One hundred years ago, the 19th Amendment guaranteed women across the country the right to vote for the first time. BEFORE then, SOME women could vote, and SOME couldn’t. It all depended upon where they lived.

The Constitution had previously left it up to the Territories and States to determine the voting rights of its citizens. So, in 1870 for instance, if a woman lived in Wyoming, she could vote. If she lived in California, she couldn’t. She would have to wait until 1911 for that right in California. Women in New Mexico had to wait until 1920, 50 years after the women in Wyoming.