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Voices & Votes: Democracy in America in Moab as Part of America250

As part of the nationwide America250 commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States, the **Moab Arts Center**, **Utah Humanities**, and the **Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street**, are partnering to present *Voices & Votes: Democracy in America*. This nationally recognized Smithsonian traveling exhibition explores the past, present, and future of American democracy and will travel to five communities around Utah over the next year. It opens at the Moab Arts Center on June 8, 2026 and will be on display there through August 7, 2026.



"Remember July 4th" holiday banner, 1860s. Courtesy of National Museum of American History

civil rights and casting secret ballots, everyone in every community is part of this ever-evolving story—the story of democracy in America. Exhibition sections explore the origins of American democracy, the struggles to obtain and keep the vote, the machinery of democracy, the right to petition and protest beyond the ballot, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens. *Voices & Votes* features historical and contemporary photos; educational and archival video; engaging multimedia interactives with short games; and historical objects like

campaign souvenirs, voter memorabilia, and protest material.

Voices & Votes: Democracy in America examines the 250-year-old American experiment of a government "of, by and for the people," and how each generation since continues to question how to form "a more perfect union". Democracy is not static; it is shaped and reshaped by every generation, every election, and every time individuals choose to raise their voices. The exhibition invites visitors to explore the action, reaction, vision and revision that democracy demands as Americans continue to question how to shape the country. From the revolution and suffrage, to



National Woman's Party march for woman's suffrage, Washington, D.C. February 14, 1917. Photograph, gift of Alice Paul Centennial Foundation, National Museum of American History

In addition to the *Voices & Votes* national exhibition, Moab Arts will have a local companion exhibit on display, *Community Voices: from whispers to shouts and the squawks, rumbles and clangs in between*. This exhibit explores what it means to express your voice, not only nationally, but also in the local community. The exhibit is intended to spark conversations about the different volumes we use to express our voices and showcase what is important to us as individuals.

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