

# Letter from Anna Lawther of the Iowa Equal Suffrage Association to County Chairman, December 29, 1916

Iowa Equal Suffrage Association

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239 17th St., Dubuque

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Office of the President — 239 17th Street, Dubuque, Iowa

**Map:**

Lyon, Osceola, Dickinson, Emmet, Kossuth, Winnebago, Worth, Mitchell, Howard, Winneshiek, Allamakee, Sioux, O'Brien, Clay, Palo Alto, Hancock, Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Chickasaw, Fayette, Clayton, Plymouth, Cherokee, Buena Vista, Pocahontas, Humboldt, Wright, Franklin, Butler, Bremer, Woodbury, Ida, Sac, Calhoun, Webster, Hamilton, Hardin, Grundy, Black Hawk, Buchanan, Delaware, Dubuque, Monona, Crawford, Carroll, Greene, Boone, Story, Marshall, Tama, Benton, Linn, Jones, Jackson, Harrison, Shelby, Audubon, Guthrie, Dallas, Polk, Jasper, Poweshiek, Iowa, Johnson, Cedar, Clinton, Scott, Muscatine, Pottawattamie, Cass, Adair, Madison, Warren, Marion, Mahaska, Keokuk, Washington, Louisa, Mills, Montgomery, Adams, Union, Clarke, Lucas, Monroe, Wapello, Jefferson, Henry, Des Moines, Fremont, Page, Taylor, Ringgold, Decatur, Wayne, Appanoose, Davis, Van Buren, Lee

Counties Won

Counties Lost by Less Than 100 Votes

Counties Lost by More Than 100 Votes

November 13, 1918

Dear County Chairman:-

The Secretary of State forgot to publish the Suffrage Amendment to the State Constitution before the General Election and that will make it impossible to have a referendum before 1921. This carelessness is inexcusable, but nevertheless must be endured by voteless women with no redress.

I lay this forgetfulness on the part of the Secretary of State to the fact that suffragists of Iowa were so intent on war work and so afraid they might discourage some anti suffragists from working with them in the common cause of winning the war that the Secretary of State quite forgot that women did not have the ballot. There is no way for us to know that he wishes us to have the ballot.

However, it is an ill wind that blows nobody good, and at present we must put our whole effort on securing the ratification of the Federal Suffrage Amendment. We must present to our legislature a monster petition of signatures of women over 21, and a monster petition of voters, i.e. men over 21 so that the legislature will feel that they are carrying out the wishes of the people of Iowa when they vote to ratify the Federal Suffrage Amendment.

The important thing now that the war is won victoriously and the world made safe for Democracy is for us to see that there is Democracy in the world. Do, I beg of you, put every ounce of strength and energy you have into the petition work and do it now for we must show the Secretary (sic) of State that women want to vote. If you could send some money to our depleted (sic) treasury, Mrs. Jennie I. Berry, Cedar Rapids Treasurer, it would help the State Board do the heavy work before us this winter.

There is the greatest hope that the Federal Amendment will pass in December and if it does not pass then, it will surely pass in March and our legislature-mostly Republican should ratify it at once to compensate in some slight degree for the injustice done by an officer elected by that Party.

I consider this a test time for the suffragists of Iowa. Stand shoulder to shoulder now for the Federal Amendment Ratification which after all is the quickest way to be enfranchised and the one that will help other states. Send in the petitions properly signed and endorsed as soon as you can so that we can show that 300,000 women feel outraged at the treatment they have received.

Ask your state senator and representative to give you written statements that they will vote for the ratification of the Federal Amendment when it is submitted by Congress. Send copies of the statement to me.

Yours for the Cause,

President.