

# Women's Suffrage

## Why did it take so long for women to get the right to vote?

Sex and gender are two different concepts. Sex refers to biological differences while gender relates to the roles and expectations culture assigns to each group. Every culture struggles with adjusting the roles of men and women to secure a just and harmonious society. Several factors like religion, science, tradition and technology influence gender roles. By tradition, men had near exclusive domination of politics in the United States, but that began to change in the 19th century with increasing urbanization, educational opportunities for women and changes in home responsibilities.

### Women's Suffrage in Iowa

The first Iowa constitutions restricted the right to vote to white males. Most Iowans believed that women's natural sphere was in running the household and caring for children while men represented the family in public affairs. A women's suffrage convention in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York, issued a call for expanding political rights for women, including the right to vote, but the issue did not gain much visibility in Iowa until the years immediately after the Civil War. As heated debate focused on the status of freed black former slaves, some women and men began to argue that women also should be allowed to vote.

Through the 1870s and 1880s, women suffrage advocates pushed various proposals, but none could win passage in two consecutive sessions of the legislature as required to change the constitution. In public debate, the issue became entangled in the debate on the sale and manufacture of alcohol. Women were seen as allies of those wishing to prohibit or greatly limit such sales, and therefore, prohibitionists were usually advocates of granting the vote to women. When a prominent women's suffrage leader in New York, Victoria Woodhull, spoke out for greater sexual freedom, the suffrage movement became accused of advocating for "free love."

In 1894, the Iowa legislature granted women "partial suffrage," the right to vote on bond issues and similar matters but not where there were candidates running for office. In 1916, the state legislature submitted to Iowa voters (still all men) a constitutional amendment to remove the word "male" as a requirement to vote. Areas where pro-alcohol sentiments were strong opposed it as did liquor manufacturers. The Catholic Church, which pointed to biblical passages citing the man as head of the family, also opposed it. Counties along the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers where these two groups were strong racked up huge majorities to narrowly defeat the measure.

### "Votes for Women" Around the Country

However, the issue was winning support at the national level. Iowa-raised Carrie Chapman Catt led a national women's suffrage amendment that organized support in every state and at the national level. An amendment to the U.S. Constitution must be passed by Congress and approved by three-fourths of the states. In 1919, Congress approved a women's suffrage amendment and submitted it to the states. In 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify it, providing the necessary three-fourths and adding women's right to vote as the 19th amendment.

Over 75 years passed since the Seneca Falls convention first advocated giving women the right to vote. Some women like Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony spent nearly their whole adult lives working for that change. Many women who had never taken part in political activities accepted an expanded role as they joined suffrage efforts and tried to persuade lawmakers at every level of government to include them in the governing process. Today, women constitute a majority of voters but are far less than half among elected leaders. Not until 2014 did Iowa send a woman to Congress and the first woman governor was inaugurated in 2017.

## Supporting Questions

What attitudes about their gender and expected role in society did women need to overcome to gain the right to vote?

- [“Advice To Young Ladies” Song Sheet, Date Unknown \(Document\)](#)
- [“The Lid Is Off Again” Political Cartoon, March 30, 1904 \(Political Cartoon\)](#)
- [“Election Day!” Political Cartoon, 1909 \(Political Cartoon\)](#)
- [“Woman” Political Cartoon, December 5, 1914 \(Political Cartoon\)](#)
- [Excerpts from “Are Women People?: A Book of Rhymes for Suffrage Times,” 1915 \(Document\)](#)
- [Anti-Suffrage Ad from The Iowa Homestead, May 25, 1916 \(Document\)](#)

What tactics did suffragists use to convince society they deserved the right to vote?

- [Attendees of the Iowa Equal Suffrage Convention Held in Panora, Iowa, November 9-11, 1905 \(Image\)](#)
- [Women’s Suffrage Parade Shown Passing by Church, October 29, 1908 \(Image\)](#)
- [“Jane Addams on Suffrage” Letter to the Editor in The New York Times, March 20, 1909 \(Document\)](#)
- [“Being Fed Through Nostrils Is Described by Alice Paul, Young American Suffragette” Newspaper Article, December 1909 \(Document\)](#)
- [“Votes for Women Broadside” by the Women’s Political Union, January 28, 1911 \(Document\)](#)
- [“Votes for Women! The Woman’s Reason” by the National American Woman Suffrage Association, 1912 \(Document\)](#)
- [“Woman Suffrage” Headquarters on Upper Euclid Ave. in Cleveland, Ohio, 1912 \(Image\)](#)
- [Map Abstract of June 5, 1916, Vote for Woman Suffrage Constitutional Amendment in Iowa, 1916 \(Map\)](#)
- [“Woman Suffrage Bonfire on Sidewalk Before White House,” 1918 \(Image\)](#)

What impact did the 19th Amendment have on women and their government?

- [Suffragists at the 1920 Republican National Convention in Chicago, Illinois, June 8-12, 1920 \(Image\)](#)
- [“The Sky is Now Her Limit” Political Cartoon, August 1920 \(Political Cartoon\)](#)
- [19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, August 26, 1920 \(Document\)](#)
- [Nellie Tayloe Ross, director of the Mint, at her farm on Solomon’s Island, Maryland, July 29, 1938 \(Image\)](#)
- [H.Res. 159, “Honoring the New Hampshire State Senate for becoming the 1st statewide legislative body with a majority of women,” November 3, 2009 \(Document\)](#)

## [\\*Printable Image and Document Guide](#)

### Additional Resources

[“One Hundred Years toward Suffrage: An Overview”](#): This website provides a timeline from Abigail Adams’ “Remember the Ladies” letter to her husband through the first proposal of the Equal Rights Amendment in 1923.

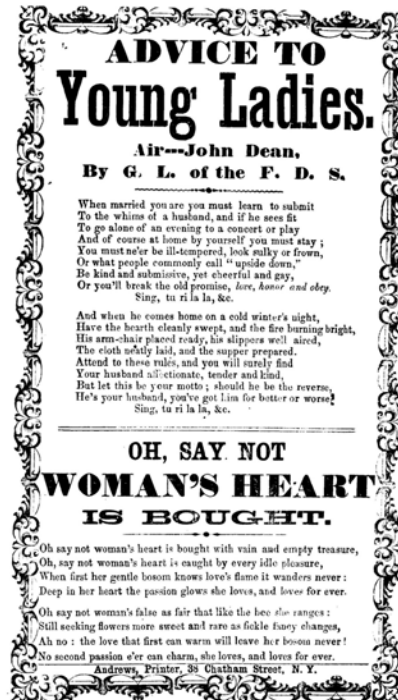
[“Primary Documents in American History: 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution”](#): This web guide provides a wide variety of primary sources gathered from different Library of Congress collections related to the 19th Amendment.

[“The Fight For Women’s Suffrage”](#): An Iowa Public Television online resource that summarizes the history of women’s suffrage in Iowa.

[The Suffrage Postcard Project](#): A database of illustrations and images of masculinity and fatherhood found in anti-suffrage postcards in circulation in the decade prior to ratification of the 19th Amendment.

[The National Women’s History Museum](#): The museum’s website provides an impressive amount of educator resources related to the suffrage movement.

## “Advice To Young Ladies” Song Sheet, Date Unknown



Courtesy of Library of Congress, “Advice to young ladies. Air---John Dean. Andrews, Printer, 38 Chatham Street, N.Y.,” Date Unknown

### Description

“Advice to Young Ladies” is a song meant to provide advice to young women pertaining to their role and duties as an “ideal” wife. The song directs women to be submissive to their husband and “ne’er be ill-tempered, look sulky or frown.” Also included on the song sheet is “Oh, Say Not Woman’s Heart is Bought.”

### [Full Transcript of “Advice to Young Ladies” and “Oh Say Not Woman’s Heart is Bought” Song Sheet](#)

### [Transcribed Excerpt of “Advice to Young Ladies” Song](#)

### Text-Dependent Questions

- Who does the songwriter specifically target with this song? What is its purpose? Provide evidence from the source that leads you to your conclusion.
- Use specific evidence from the song to characterize the ideal relationship between husband and wife according to the songwriter.
- What societal attitude is reflected in the final four lines of the song about the status of women within marriage and society?
- If the songwriter were writing “Advice to Young Ladies” today, what would he change in his original song? Why?

### Citation Information

“Advice to young ladies. Air---John Dean. Andrews, Printer, 38 Chatham Street, N.Y.,” Date Unknown. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## “The Lid Is Off Again” Political Cartoon, March 30, 1904



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Ehrhart, S. D., “The Lid Is Off Again,” 30 March 1904

### Description

“The Lid Is Off Again” is a political cartoon published in Puck Magazine on March 30, 1904. The image portrays a devil removing the lid off a box labeled “Society,” allowing fumes to escape which show the dark, suggested consequences of female liberation. These negative effects, as described by the cartoon, are: being granted divorces, horseback riding, driving automobiles, gambling and smoking in social situations.

### Text-Dependent Questions

- Based on the images depicted coming out of the container, what does the artist mean with his title by “The Lid Is Off Again?”
- List the activities deemed inappropriate for women in society according to the artist.
- How might the right to vote lead to such activities? How would the liberation of women negatively impact both men and women, according to this cartoon?
- Who does the man in red represent? How does this symbolism help relay the author’s attitude about suffrage?

### Citation Information

Ehrhart, S. D., “The Lid Is Off Again,” 30 March 1904. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## “Election Day!” Political Cartoon, 1909



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Gustin, E.W, "Election Day!" 1909

### Description

"Election Day" is an image published in 1909 by E.W. Gustin. The cartoon portrays a woman leaving the house to vote on election day while her distraught husband is left behind to tend to the children and house by himself. A plate has been broken, both children are crying and even the cat is in a panic.

### [Transcript of "Election Day!" Political Cartoon](#)

### Text-Dependent Questions

- Where is the woman in this image going? Identify the evidence in the source that leads you to believe this.
- Does the artist support or oppose women's suffrage? List the evidence from the source that led you to this conclusion.
- Explain the impact the right to vote for women has on both the family and the home according to the artist.
- Create thought bubbles or write dialogue for both the man and woman in this image. Use evidence from the cartoon to inspire your work.

### Citation Information

Gustin, E.W, "Election Day!" 1909. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)



## “Woman” Political Cartoon, December 5, 1914



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Chamberlain, Kenneth Russell, “Woman/Chamberlain,” Puck Publishing Corporation, 5 December 1914

### Description

“Woman” is a cartoon created by Kenneth Russell Chamberlain and published by Puck Magazine on December 5, 1914. The cartoon portrays a woman sitting slumped over on a chair atop a stove, wearing a pot for a crown, holding a broom as pots and pans are steaming around her. The caption below the illustration describes the young woman as “Queen of a Cook-Stove Throne.”

### [Transcript from “Woman” Political Cartoon](#)

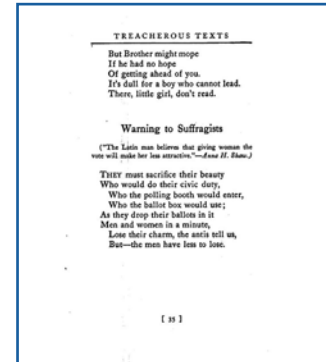
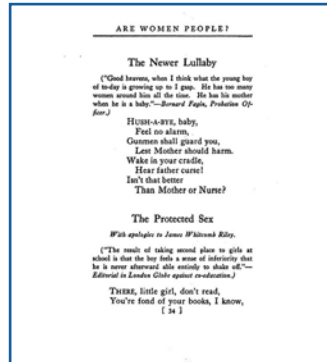
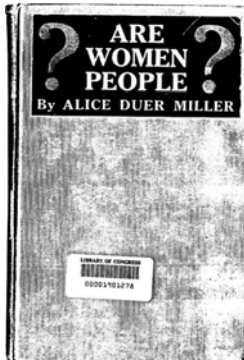
### Text-Dependent Questions

- What is the message of the artist in his cartoon? What techniques does he use to make that message clear?
- The woman depicted in this source appears to have followed the [“Advice to Young Ladies”](#) given by its songwriter. How has the fulfillment of her gender expectations impacted her?
- How might the right to vote impact role expectations for women at this time?

### Citation Information

Chamberlain, Kenneth Russell, “Woman/Chamberlain,” Puck Publishing Corporation, 5 December 1914. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## Excerpts from "Are Women People?: A Book of Rhymes for Suffrage Times," 1915



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Miller, Alice Duer, "Are Women People?: A Book of Rhymes for Suffrage Times," 1915

### Description

Published in 1915, "Are Women People?: A Book of Rhymes for Suffrage Times" is a collection of poetry by Alice Duer Miller concerning suffrage and women's rights. A large portion of it was originally published in *The New York Times*. Miller (1874 - 1942) was a U.S. writer whose poetry actively influenced political opinion, particularly during the suffrage movement and the United States' entry into World War II.

[Full Transcript of Pgs. 1, 34 and 35 from "Are Women People?: A Book of Rhymes for Suffrage"](#)

[Transcribed Excerpt of "The Protected Sex" from pgs. 34-35 in "Are Women People?: A Book of Rhymes for Suffrage"](#)

[Transcribed Excerpt of "Warning to Suffragists" from pg. 35 in "Are Women People?: A Book of Rhymes for Suffrage"](#)

### Text-Dependent Questions

**For "The Protected Sex" (pg. 34-35)**

- Why are males considered a protected sex, according to this rhyme?
- What inferences can be made about the position of women in society in relation to men based on this source?

**For "Warning to Suffragists" (pg. 35)**

- According to anti-suffragists, what two ways would women be negatively impacted by the right to vote?
- Using what you know from previous sources ("[Advice To Young Ladies](#)," "[Election Day!](#)" and "[The Lid Is Off Again](#)"), why might male voters have "less to lose" than female voters?
- How might the "Queen of the Throne" depicted in the "[Woman](#)" cartoon from December 5, 1914, respond to "Warning to Suffragists?" Why?

### Citation Information

Miller, Alice Duer, "Are Women People?: A Book of Rhymes for Suffrage Times," 1915. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## Anti-Suffrage Ad from The Iowa Homestead, May 25, 1916

May 25, 1916 THE IOWA HOMESTEAD (1129) 25

**TO THE IOWA FARMER!--REMEMBER!**  
**WOMAN SUFFRAGE**  
**MEANS HIGH TAXES**  
**TAX RATE IS BOUND TO INCREASE**

The History of Equal Suffrage States is the Story of Taxpayers' Money Wasted--Money Thrown Away in Hysterical Legislation, Useless Commissions, Uncalled for Bond Issues, Increased Election Costs--Taxes are Squandered Because of a Catering to Legislative Interests to the Irresponsible Elements Among Voters. Compare this Government Report:

Non-Suffrage States	Tax per \$1,000	Equal Suffrage States	Tax per \$1,000
Wisconsin	\$11.80	Washington	\$11.00
New Hampshire	16.00	Colorado	18.00
Vermont	18.85	Utah	23.00
Missouri	19.00	Wyoming	23.00
Massachusetts	17.25	California	23.00
IOWA	12.01	Idaho	23.00

**TAX RIDDEN CALIFORNIA**  
 During the first four years of Woman Suffrage in California, 1911 to 1915, state taxes were increased from \$4 to \$6 million, or 100 per cent increase. The cost of county government is the highest of any state in the Union. Los Angeles alone cost the taxpayers 42 millions. Los Angeles Times says: "10 millions in political plunder."

**DO YOU WANT THIS IN IOWA?**

**COLORADO'S EXPERIENCE**  
 Denver has the highest tax rate of any city its size in the world--\$26.00 for every man, woman and child in the city. Colorado has the highest state tax in the Union. The Denver Post protests that "Public funds are notoriously wasted through useless commissions, and loose political methods."

**DO YOU WANT THIS IN IOWA?**

**TAX CRISIS IN IOWA**  
 Taxpayers of Iowa today are entering a Protest against the Squandering of Public Funds. The Cost of running the State of Iowa has been for the Biennial Periods:  
 Ending June 30, 1905, \$3,624,000. Ending June 30, 1914, \$11,996,000.  
 Note this Enormous Increase in Taxes with no Increase in Population.  
 Facing this Critical Situation It is No Time to Increase State Expenses by adopting Woman Suffrage and assuming Additional Election Expenses of a Million Dollars.

**VOTE "NO" ON JUNE 5**  
 The Farmers of Iowa should remember that the granting of Woman Suffrage means the doubling of the city vote in Iowa which has no thought of their interests and does not materially increase the farm vote. "It is not your wife and daughter who will vote, but the women of towns and cities who have easy access to the polls and vote to greed."

**YOU, MR. FARMER, MUST PAY THE BILL. CAN YOU AFFORD THIS EXPERIMENT AT THIS TIME?**  
**IOWA ASSOCIATION OPPOSED TO WOMAN SUFFRAGE** **DES MOINES, IOWA**

THIS ADVERTISEMENT PAID FOR BY POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION AMONG PATRIOTIC IOWANS

Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, 25 May 1916

### Description

This advertisement, printed in The Iowa Homestead on May 25, 1916, was funded by the Iowa Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage. The organization argues that women's suffrage would directly lead to both higher taxes and the drowning out of the rural vote because of a doubled city vote. The ad was published just over a week before the June 5, 1916, vote held in Iowa to add a [women's suffrage amendment to the Iowa constitution](#), which ultimately failed.

### [Transcript of Anti-Suffrage Ad from The Iowa Homestead](#)

### Text-Dependent Questions

- What are the two main arguments against women's suffrage offered by the Iowa Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage in this newspaper advertisement?
- Using evidence drawn from the source, explain the techniques/tactics/strategies used by the Iowa Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage to make its argument.
- Do you find this argument convincing? Why or why not?



## Attendees of the Iowa Equal Suffrage Convention Held in Panora, Iowa, November 9-11, 1905



Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, 9-11 November 1905

### Description

This is a picture taken in November 1905 of the approximately 60 attendees, all women, of the Iowa Equal Suffrage Convention held in Panora, Iowa.

### Text-Dependent Questions

- Why are only white women from the same social status in attendance at the Iowa Equal Suffrage Convention held in Panora, Iowa, in 1905? What are some reasons why women of color or women living in poverty were not in attendance? In what ways could their presence strengthen the fight for female suffrage in Iowa?
- How might a convention aid in the fight for the right to vote?

## Women's Suffrage Parade Shown Passing by Church, October 29, 1908



Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, 29 October 1908

### Description

In this photograph, taken in Boone, Iowa on October 29, 1908, a suffrage parade made up of people carrying banners and flags passes by a large church. One banner held by a parade marcher reads: "Taxation Without Representation Is Tyranny. As True Now As In 1776."

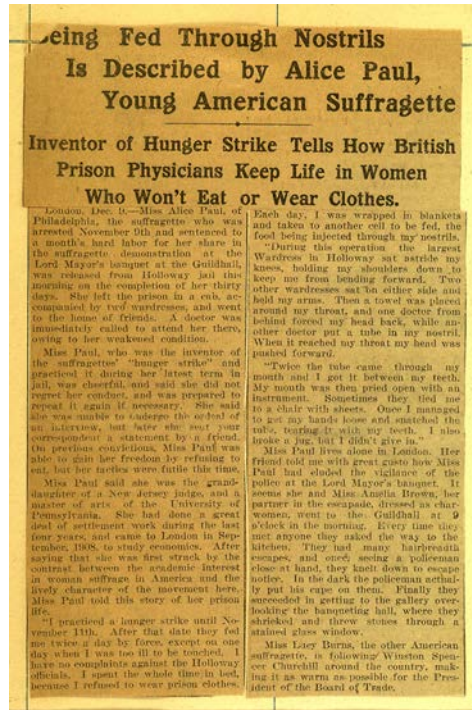
### [Transcript of Women's Suffrage Parade Banner](#)

### Text-Dependent Questions

- In 1908, Boone, Iowa, is a town of approximately 10,000 people. Use evidence from the photograph to infer the type of support suffragists have in the town.
- A parade participant near the middle of the photograph is holding a banner that reads: "Taxation Without Representation Is Tyranny. As True Now As In 1776." What statement is she making with this banner? Why does the right to vote matter to her?
- Continue considering the "Taxation Without Representation Is Tyranny. As True Now As In 1776." sign. Is it appropriate to compare the struggle for women's suffrage to declaring independence from Great Britain? Why or why not?



## “Being Fed Through Nostrils Is Described by Alice Paul, Young American Suffragette” Newspaper Article, December 1909



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Paul, Alice, “Alice Paul Describes Force Feeding,” December 1909

### Description

Alice Paul, American women’s rights activist and suffragette, describes her hunger strike and subsequent force feeding in Holloway jail in this 1909 newspaper article. Paul sentenced to seven months in jail after being arrested for demonstrating at the Lord Mayor’s banquet in London. She also refused to wear prison clothes or to work in protest of her and other suffragettes’ imprisonment.

[Full Transcript “Being Fed Through Nostrils Is Described by Alice Paul, Young American Suffragette”](#)

[Transcribed Excerpt from “Being Fed Through Nostrils is Described by Alice Paul, Young American Suffragette”](#)

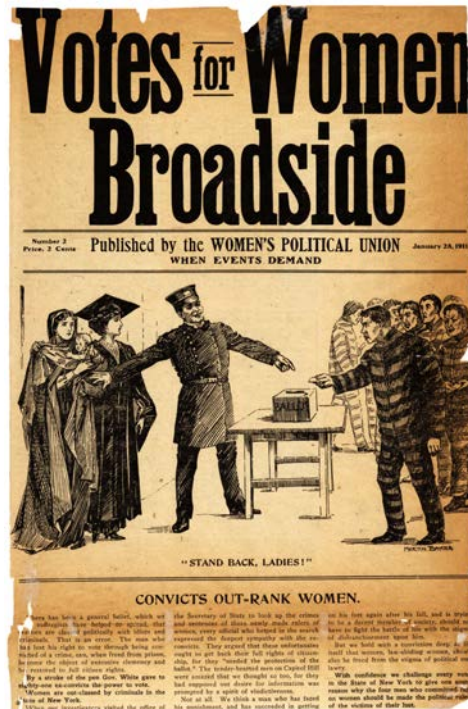
### Text-Dependent Questions

- Using three pieces of evidence from the article, explain how the author portrays Alice Paul.
- Which specific parts of the article might the public react strongly to? How and why might it react in this way?
- What do you think Paul hoped to accomplish by holding a hunger strike and starving herself? What do her actions have in common with others throughout history that have held hunger strikes for different causes or performed other acts of civil disobedience?

### Citation Information

Paul, Alice, “Alice Paul Describes Force Feeding,” December 1909. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## “Votes for Women Broadside” by the Women’s Political Union, January 28, 1911



Courtesy of Library of Congress, “Votes for Women Broadside,” Women’s Political Union, New York, 28 January 1911

### Description

In this January 28, 1911, broadside published by the Women’s Political Union, a policeman is quoted as saying, “Stand back, ladies!” as ex-convicts cast their ballot while two women, one holding a baby and another dressed in an academic robe, look on. Below the image, the Women’s Political Union argues that law-abiding women should also be granted this right.

### [Transcript of “Votes for Women Broadside”](#)

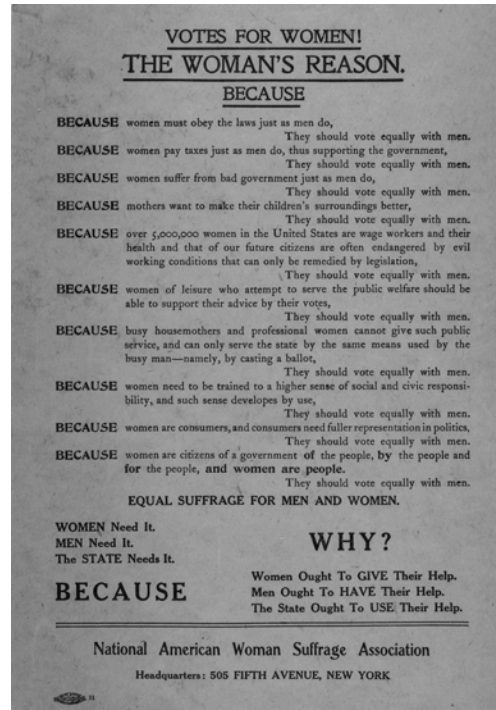
### Text-Dependent Questions

- How do “convicts out-rank women,” according to the Women’s Political Union?
- Why does the Women’s Political Union argue women deserve the right to vote? Use evidence from the text to support your claim.
- Select only one passage of this broadside that makes the Women’s Political Union argument most convincing. Why did you select that passage?

### Citation Information

“Votes for Women Broadside,” Women’s Political Union, New York, 28 January 1911. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## “Votes for Women! The Woman’s Reason” by the National American Woman Suffrage Association, 1912



Courtesy of Library of Congress, “Votes For Women! The Woman’s Reason...,” National American Woman Suffrage Association, New York, 1912

### Description

The broadside, published by the National American Woman Suffrage Association, includes 10 reasons why women should vote equally with men are listed. The poster was created in 1912, and even made reference to a line made famous by Abraham Lincoln’s second inaugural address by stating, “Because women are citizens of a government of the people, by the people and for the people. And women are people.”

### [Transcript of “Votes for Women! The Woman’s Reason” Broadside](#)

### Text-Dependent Questions

- How is the National American Woman Suffrage Association trying to make its argument for women’s suffrage appealing to its audience in this broadside?
- Consider the arguments against women’s suffrage encountered in previous documents (Suggested sources: [“Advice To Young Ladies,”](#) [“Woman,”](#) [Anti-Suffrage Advertisement from \*The Iowa Homestead\*,](#) and [“Jane Addams on Suffrage”](#)). Which of those are addressed here by the National American Woman Suffrage Association? How well are they addressed?

### Citation Information

“Votes For Women! The Woman’s Reason...,” National American Woman Suffrage Association, New York, 1912.  
[Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)



## “Woman Suffrage” Headquarters on Upper Euclid Ave. in Cleveland, Ohio, 1912



Courtesy of Library of Congress, “Woman suffrage headquarters...,” 1912

### Description

This photograph was taken outside the “Woman Suffrage Headquarters” on Upper Euclid Ave. in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1912. The image shows four suffragettes in conversation outside the building, one of which is actually Belle Sherman, president of the National League of Women Voters. Six suffragettes are doing the same inside the doorway, and Judge Florence E. Allen, is standing on the sidewalk holding a flag stating, “Votes For Women.”

### [Transcript from the Woman Suffrage Headquarters Photograph](#)

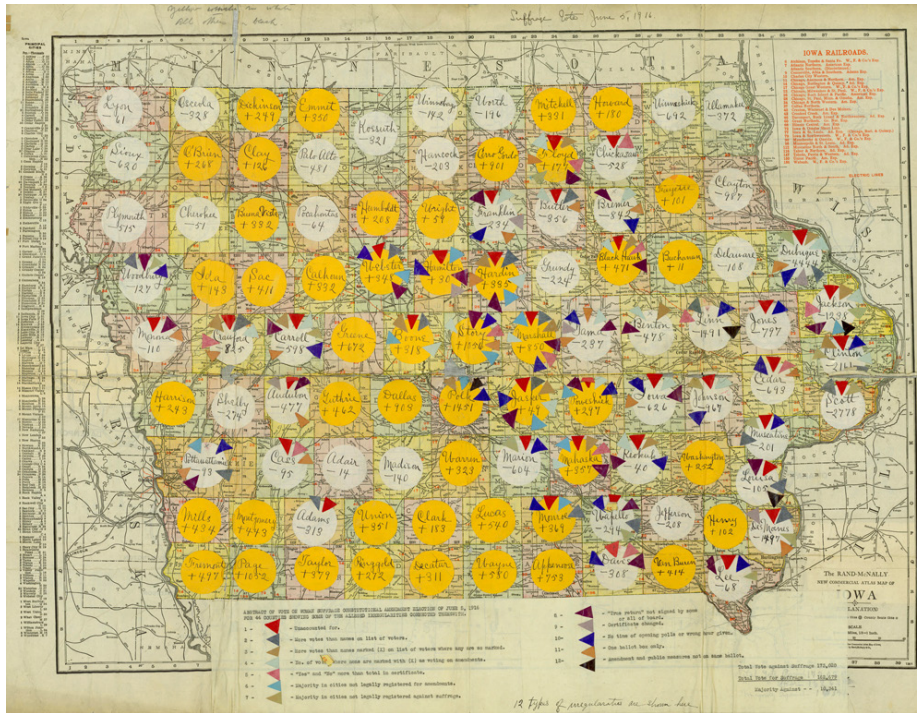
### Text-Dependent Questions

- According to the language used in their signs, what tactic are these women relying on to help them gain the right to vote?
- Why are women in Ohio and many other states ultimately dependent on men for their own suffrage?

### Citation Information

“Woman suffrage headquarters in Upper Euclid Avenue, Cleveland--A. (at extreme right) is Miss Belle Sherwin, President, National League of Women Voters; B. is Judge Florence E. Allen (holding the flag); C. is Mrs. Malcolm McBride,” 1912. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## Map Abstract of June 5, 1916, Vote for Woman Suffrage Constitutional Amendment in Iowa, 1916



Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, 1916

### Description

This 1916 map from Carrie Chapman Catt's scrapbook was created after the failed June 5, 1916, vote attempt to add a woman suffrage amendment to the Iowa constitution. Suffragists plotted out the margin of victory or loss by county. Their work also included the 12 different alleged irregularities that may have occurred in some counties that led to a statewide majority opposed to the amendment.

### [Transcript of Map Abstract of Vote for Woman Suffrage Constitutional Amendment](#)

### Text-Dependent Questions

- Interpret the main features of the map: What is the difference between counties labeled with a yellow circle and counties labeled with a white circle? What does the + or - number mean? Why do some counties have colored tabs while others do not?
- Which parts of Iowa do suffragists have the strongest support? Which parts do they have the least? How did your county vote?
- Based on the evidence of the map how might suffragists explain Iowa's denial of the addition of a woman suffrage amendment to the state constitution on June 5, 1916?
- How might suffragists utilize this map and the data it contains to their advantage in their continued fight for the right to vote?

## “Woman Suffrage Bonfire on Sidewalk Before White House,” 1918



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Harris & Ewing, “Woman Suffrage. Bonfire on Sidewalk Before White House,” 1918

### Description

Three suffragettes hold a banner outside the gates of the White House in this 1918 photograph by Harris & Ewing. The banner accuses President Woodrow Wilson of hypocrisy when he claims to fight for and support democracy during World War I, all the while denying women the right to vote in his own country.

### [Transcript from “Woman Suffrage Bonfire” Photograph](#)

### Text-Dependent Questions

- Where are the women protesting? Is this an effective place for them to do so at this time in history? Why or why not?
- Use context clues from the image and previous background knowledge to define the word “disenfranchisement.”
- How can the president of the United States support self-determination for countries under imperial rule but not for women in his own country?

### Citation Information

Harris & Ewing, “Woman Suffrage. Bonfire on Sidewalk Before White House,” 1918. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)



## Suffragists at the 1920 Republican National Convention in Chicago, Illinois, June 8-12, 1920



Courtesy of Library of Congress, "Republican [National] Convention, [Chicago, Illinois,] 1920," National Photo Co., Washington, D.C., 8-12 June 1920

### Description

This photograph, taken at the June 1920 Republican National Convention in Chicago, depicts six suffragists (including Alice Paul, second from the right) gathered in front of a building with suffrage banners. One of the banners even includes a quote from the influential suffragette, Susan B. Anthony.

### [Transcript of Suffragist Banner from the 1920 Republican National Convention](#)

### Text-Dependent Questions

- What type of party is referred to by the influential suffragist Susan B. Anthony on the banner held by these suffragists?
- Explain Anthony's quote using your own words. Focus on how her comments are a criticism of the Republican Party.
- What impact would the 19th Amendment have had on the membership and issue positions of political parties?

### Citation Information

"Republican [National] Convention, [Chicago, Illinois,] 1920," National Photo Co., Washington, D.C., 8-12 June 1920.  
[Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## “The Sky is Now Her Limit” Political Cartoon, August 1920



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Bushnell, Elmer Andrews, “The Sky Is Now Her Limit,” August 1920

### Description

In this 1920 cartoon “The Sky is Now Her Limit,” a young woman carrying buckets on a yoke looks up a ladder ascending up to the sky. Among the many rungs, the bottom three are labeled “Slavery,” “House Drudgery” and “Shop Work” while a few at the top are labeled “Equal Suffrage,” “Wage Equality” and “Presidency.”

### [Transcript of “The Sky is Now Her Limit” Political Cartoon](#)

### Text-Dependent Questions

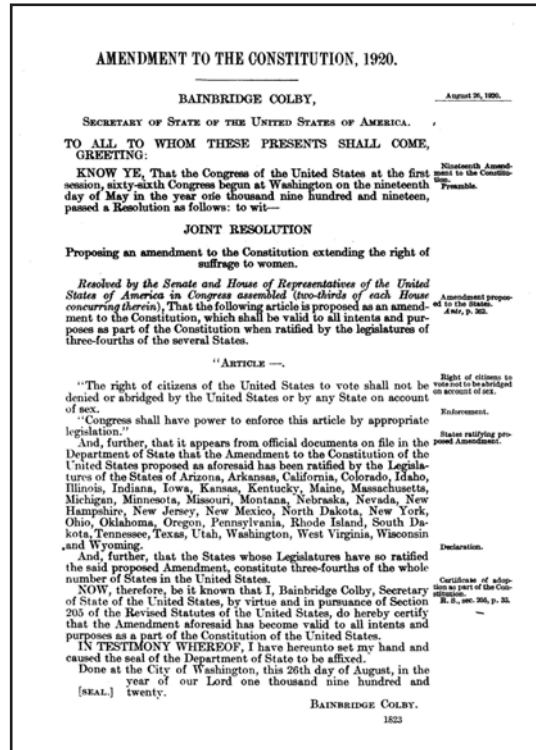
- Use specific evidence from the cartoon to explain the author’s purpose in creating it. Be sure to discuss the role the right to vote plays in the cartoon.
- Using evidence from each, contrast this cartoon with the December 5, 1914, political cartoon entitled, “[Woman.](#)”
- Which rungs of the ladder have not been fully achieved by women in today’s society? Why do you think that is?

### Citation Information

Bushnell, Elmer Andrews, “The Sky Is Now Her Limit,” August 1920. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)



## 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, August 26, 1920



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Bainbridge, Colby, "19th Amendment to the Constitution, 1920." 26 August 1920

### Description

The United States Congress approved a women's suffrage amendment to the U.S. Constitution and three-fourths of the states ratified it. On August 26, 1920, Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby officially certified the 19th Amendment with his signature and the seal of the United States.

### [Transcript of the 19th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution](#)

### Text-Dependent Questions

- Explain the 19th Amendment using your own words.
- Choose a phrase or passage from the document that best expresses the new rights gained by women.
- What steps were necessary for this amendment to become part of the U.S. Constitution?

### Citation Information

Bainbridge, Colby, "19th Amendment to the Constitution, 1920." 26 August 1920. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## Nellie Tayloe Ross, director of the U.S. Mint, at her farm on Solomon's Island, Maryland, July 29, 1938



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Harris & Ewing, "Director of mint relaxes on newly acquired farm...," 29 July 1938

### Description

Nellie Tayloe Ross, director of the U.S. Mint, was taken on July 29, 1938, by Harris & Ewing. Ross is shown on her newly-purchased 100-year-old home on a 200-acre farm. She is examining tomatoes on an ornate iron bench while wearing work clothes.

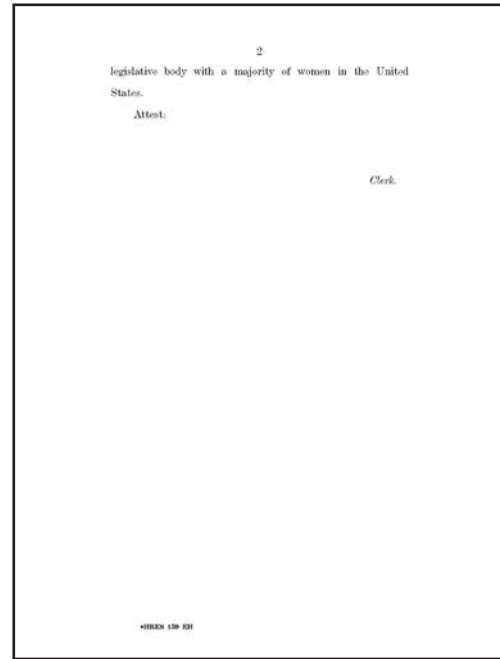
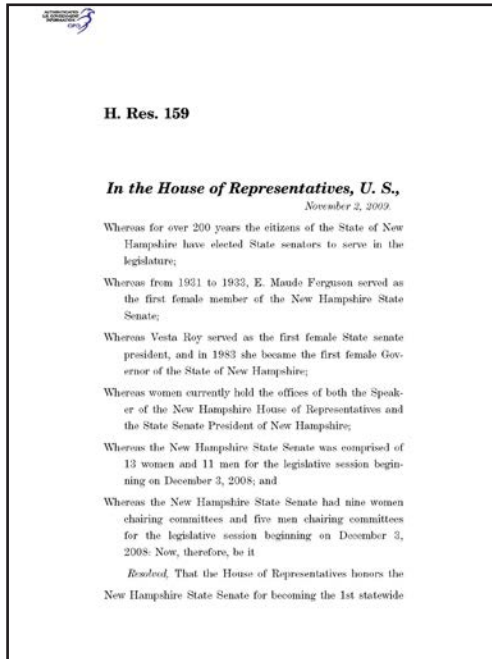
### Text-Dependent Questions

- Judging by the title of this image and the evidence found within the image itself, how does Nellie Tayloe Ross (the first female governor of any state and the first female director of the U.S. Mint) defy the assumed gender roles seen in earlier sources?
- Previous sources like "[Election Day!](#)" (1909), "[Warning to Suffragists](#)" (1915) and "[The Lid Is Off Again](#)" (1904) warned that the right to vote and participation in government would defeminize women. Has a successful career in politics defeminized Ross? Defend your position using specific evidence from the photograph.

### Citation Information

Harris & Ewing, "Director of mint relaxes on newly acquired farm. Solomon's Island, MD, July 29. Director of the Mint, Nellie Tayloe Ross, finds rest and relaxation from her arduous Treasury duties on her newly acquired 200 acre farm here. She is pictured among her 60,000 tobacco plants which are soon to be harvested. The house on the farm is over 100 years old," 29 July 1938. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

## H.Res. 159, "Honoring the New Hampshire State Senate for becoming the 1st statewide legislative body with a majority of women," November 3, 2009



Courtesy of U.S. Congress, "H.Res.159 - Honoring the New Hampshire State Senate for becoming the 1st statewide legislative body with a majority of women in the United States," 2 November 2009

### Description

The United States House of Representatives honored the New Hampshire State Senate on Nov. 2, 2009, for becoming the first statewide legislative body with a majority of women. In this document, the role of women in leadership positions in the New Hampshire Senate in the past and the present also is recognized.

### [Transcript of U.S House Resolution 159](#)

### Text-Dependent Questions

- Why is the United States House of Representatives celebrating the state of New Hampshire in this resolution?
- After the ratification of the 19th Amendment how many years did it take for a state legislature to be composed of a majority of women? Given that it took this long for a congressional body to have a majority of women, what does that say about the current state of gender equity in the United States?

### Citation Information

"H.Res.159 - Honoring the New Hampshire State Senate for becoming the 1st statewide legislative body with a majority of women in the United States," 2 November 2009. [Courtesy of U.S. Congress](#)