### Women's Suffrage



#### **NAWSA**

For the first time, suffragists united behind a single national organization: the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA). Elizabeth Cady Stanton became the president of the new group, though she did not like the administrative duties of the office. Susan B. Anthony largely led NAWSA during Stanton's presidency (1890-1892) and her own (1892-1900). Anthony groomed protégées before she resigned, including Carrie Chapman Catt and Anna Howard Shaw. Catt held office from 1900 to 1904, and Shaw led NAWSA from 1904 to 1915. Catt regained the office of president in 1915 and held it through the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment.

NAWSA coordinated the national suffrage movement. The group was made up of local and state groups throughout the United States. Member dues funded annual conventions where suffragists met to discuss campaigns. Women like Rachel Foster Avery circulated newsletters with the latest suffrage updates. NAWSA had local and national press committees that wrote pro-suffrage articles published in newspapers around the country.

Source: http://www.crusadeforthevote.org/nawsa-united

# Plessy v. Ferguson

Plessy v. Ferguson was a landmark 1896 U.S. Supreme Court decision that upheld the constitutionality of racial segregation under the "separate but equal" doctrine. The case stemmed from an 1892 incident in which African American train passenger Homer Plessy refused to sit in a car for Black people. Rejecting Plessy's argument that his constitutional rights were violated, the Supreme Court ruled that a law that "implies merely a legal distinction" between white people and Black people was not unconstitutional. As a result, restrictive Jim Crow legislation and separate public accommodations based on race became commonplace.

Source: https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/plessy-v-ferguson

### Life in the 1900's

- The average life expectancy in the U.S. was 47 years.
- Only 14 percent of the homes in the U.S. had a bathtub.
- Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.
- The average wage in the U.S. was 22 cents per hour.
- The average U.S. worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year
- Five leading causes of death in the U.S. were:
  - 1. Pneumonia and influenza 2. Tuberculosis 3. Diarrhea 4. Heart disease 5. Stroke
- Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and ice tea had not been invented yet.
- There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.
- Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Source: https://www.encoretheatricalcompany.com/life-in-the-early-1900s



#### Impact of WW I on women

World War I slowed the suffragists' campaign but helped them advance their argument nonetheless: Women's
work on behalf of the war effort, activists pointed out, proved that they were just as patriotic and deserving of
citizenship as men.

(Source: <a href="https://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/the-fight-for-womens-suffrage">https://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/the-fight-for-womens-suffrage</a>)

- During WWI (1914-1918), large numbers of women were recruited into jobs vacated by men who had gone to fight in the war. New jobs were also created as part of the war effort, for example in munitions factories. The high demand for weapons resulted in the munitions factories becoming the largest single employer of women during 1918. Though there was initial resistance to hiring women for what was seen as 'men's work', the introduction of conscription in 1916 made the need for women workers urgent. Around this time, the government began coordinating the employment of women through campaigns and recruitment drives.
- This led to women working in areas of work that were formerly reserved for men, for example as railway guards and ticket collectors, buses and tram conductors, postal workers, police, firefighters and as bank 'tellers' and clerks. Some women also worked heavy or precision machinery in engineering, led cart horses on farms, and worked in the civil service and factories. However, they received lower wages for doing the same work, and thus began some of the earliest demands for equal pay.
- (Source: https://www.striking-women.org/module/women-and-work/world-war-i-1914-1918#:~:text=During%20WWI%20(1914%2D1918),for%20example%20in%20munitions%20factories.)

### **Girl Scouts**

The Girl Scout movement seemed to blossom overnight in response to the United States' entry into the war. Girls all over the country tended to victory gardens, volunteered as ambulance drivers for the Red Cross, relieved overworked nurses during the Spanish Influenza epidemic, sold war bonds, and gathered units at Red Cross sewing rooms. Suddenly, girls were putting to use the skills they learned to use in the pursuit of badges.

#### Source:

https://georgiahistory.com/education-outreach/online-exhibits/featured-historical-figures/juliette-gordon-low/wwi-and-the-girl-scouts/

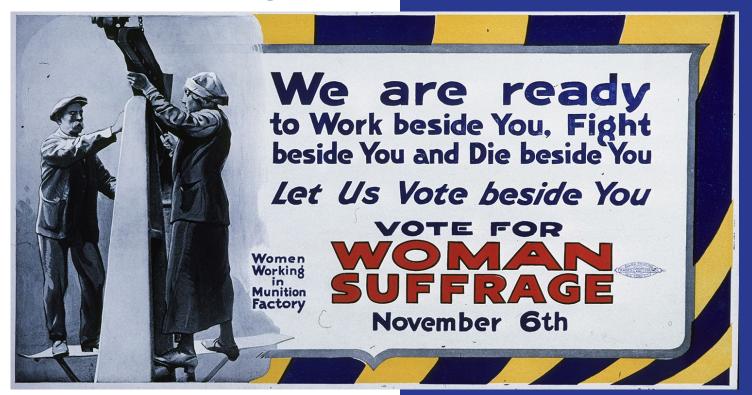
### Women's Peace Party

Woman's Peace Party (WPP), American organization that was established as a result of a three-day peace meeting organized by Jane Addams and other feminists in response to the beginning of World War I in Europe in 1914. The conference, held in January 1915 in Washington, D.C., brought together women from <u>diverse</u> organizations who unanimously agreed on most issues under discussion, including the call for limitation of arms, mediation of the European conflict, and the removal of the economic causes of war. The peace and suffrage movements were definitively united when a plank calling for the vote for women was successfully added to the party platform.

In the belief that women, the "mother half of humanity," could no longer tolerate the destruction engendered by war, WPP members traveled to the Netherlands in April 1915 to meet with other women from warring and neutral nations at the first international women's meeting to be focused on peace. With the entry of the United States into the war, however, the once 40,000-strong WPP broke into factions, some members turning to war-relief efforts and others refusing to support the conflict in any way.

Because German women could not travel to Versailles, France, WPP members and their international counterparts held a congress (May 1919) in Zürich, Switzerland, after the war, protesting the Versailles Treaty for being punitive toward Germany. They approved the League of Nations with the stipulations that it be more democratic in principle and that Germany be included. The delegates also formed the new Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), whose constitution pledged to support "movements to further peace, internationalism, and the freedom of women." The U.S. branch of the WILPF, which has its roots in the WPP, is the longest-lasting women's peace organization in the United States.

Source: https://www.britannica.com/topic/Womans-Peace-Party



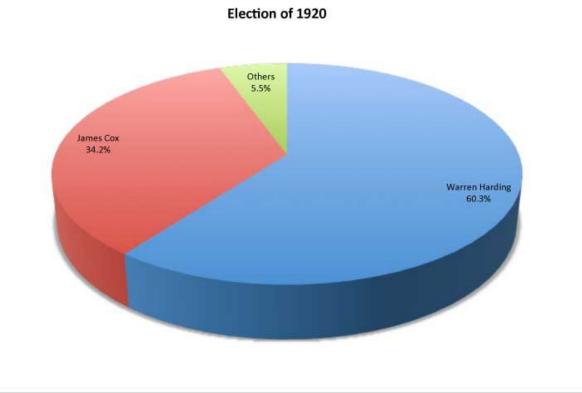
Congress formally proposed the amendment for women's suffrage.



### August 18, 1920



### Election of 1920



The weariness of the nation determined the election in favor of Harding, who obtained an overwhelming victory.

Source:

https://www.historycentral.com/elections/1920.html

# Picture Walk







