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

Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, Moxley, 29 October 1908
VOTES FOR WOMEN!
THE WOMAN’S REASON.

BECAUSE

BECAUSE women must obey the laws just as men do,
They should vote equally with men.

BECAUSE women pay taxes just as men do, thus supporting the government,
They should vote equally with men.

BECAUSE women suffer from bad government just as men do,
They should vote equally with men.

BECAUSE mothers want to make their children’s surroundings better,
They should vote equally with men.

BECAUSE over 5,000,000 women in the United States are wage workers and their health and that of our future citizens are often endangered by evil working conditions that can only be remedied by legislation,
They should vote equally with men.

BECAUSE women of leisure who attempt to serve the public welfare should be able to support their advice by their votes,
They should vote equally with men.

BECAUSE busy housemothers and professional women cannot give such public service, and can only serve the state by the same means used by the busy man—namely, by casting a ballot,
They should vote equally with men.

BECAUSE women need to be trained to a higher sense of social and civic responsibility, and such sense develops by use,
They should vote equally with men.

BECAUSE women are consumers, and consumers need fuller representation in politics,
They should vote equally with men.

BECAUSE women are citizens of a government of the people, by the people and for the people, and women are people.
They should vote equally with men.

EQUAL SUFFRAGE FOR MEN AND WOMEN.

WOMEN Need It.
MEN Need It.
The STATE Needs It.

BECAUSE

National American Woman Suffrage Association
Headquarters: 505 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

Women Ought To GIVE Their Help.
Men Ought To HAVE Their Help.
The State Ought To USE Their Help.
Billboard Urging Iowans to Vote “Yes” for Women’s Suffrage, 1916
Map Abstract of June 5, 1916, Vote for Woman Suffrage Constitutional Amendment in Iowa, 1916

Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, 1916
Route of Envoys Sent by the Congressional Union for Woman’s Suffrage to Organize in the West, between April and May 1916

"[Map of] Route of Envoys Sent from East by the Congressional Union for Woman’s Suffrage, to Appeal the Voting Women of the West [with inset portrait of Alice Paul],” between April and May 1916. Courtesy of Library of Congress
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 of Legislative Interests to the Irresponsible Elements Among Voters. Compare this Government Report:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-Suffrage States</th>
<th>Equal Suffrage States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tax per</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>$3.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>$1.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>$1.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>$2.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>$1.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOWA</td>
<td>$1.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>$2.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>$0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>$0.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TAX RIDDEN CALIFORNIA

During the first four years of Woman Suffrage in California, 1913 to 1916, state taxes were increased from 1% to 30 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 million. Los Angeles Times says: "10 millions is political plunder."

DO YOU WANT THIS IN IOWA?

COLORADO'S EXPERIENCE

Denver has the highest tax rate of any city in the nation, $20.00 for every man, woman and child in the city. Colorado has the highest state tax in the Union. The Denver Post says: "Public funds are notoriously wasted through useless commissions, and nosso 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. Ending June 30, 1896, $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 access to print."

YOU, MR. FARMER, MUST PAY THE BILL. CAN YOU AFFORD THIS EXPERIMENT AT THIS TIME?

IOWA ASSOCIATION OPPOSED TO WOMAN SUFFRAGE

DE S M I N E S, I O W A

This advertisement pays for by popular subscription among patriotic Iowans.

Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, 25 May 1916
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 antisuffragists 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 of State that women want to vote. If you could send some money to our depleted treasury, Mrs. Jennie I. Berry, Cedar Rapids Treasurer, it would help the State Board do the heavy work before us this winter.

November 13, 1918.
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 360,000 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 statements to me.

Yours for the Cause,

President.
Activists Leaving National Woman’s Party Headquarters to Take Petition to Senator Jones of New Mexico, 1918

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

7 June, 1918

My dear Mrs. Catt:

May I not thank you for transmitting to me the very interesting memorial of the French Union for Woman Suffrage addressed to me under the date of February first, last. Since you have been kind enough to transmit this interesting and impressive message to me, will you not be good enough to convey to the subscribers this answer:

I have read your message with the deepest interest and I welcome the opportunity to say that I agree without reservation that the full and sincere democratic reconstruction of the world for which we are striving, and which we are determined to bring about at any cost, will not have been completely or adequately attained until women are admitted to the suffrage, and that only by that action can the nations of the world realize for the
benefit of future generations the full ideal force of opinion or the full humane forces of action. The services of women during this supreme crisis of the world's history have been of the most signal usefulness and distinction. The war could not have been fought without them, or its sacrifices endured. It is high time that some part of our debt of gratitude to them should be acknowledged and paid, and the only acknowledgment they ask is their admission to the suffrage. Can we justly refuse it? As for America, it is my earnest hope that the Senate of the United States will give an unmistakable answer to this question by passing the suffrage amendment to our federal constitution before the end of this session.

Cordially and sincerely yours,

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, President, International Woman Suffrage Alliance.
Miss Anna B. Lawther,
Dubuque, Iowa.

My dear Miss Lawther:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your kind favor of the 3rd inst., enclosing copy of letter, dated November 19th, from Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, both referring to the failure of giving notice as required by law of the Equal Suffrage Amendment to the Constitution of the State.

On account of absence from the office I have not been able to answer more promptly, for which please pardon.

No one can regret more than myself the failure of this department to give the proper notice in the premises, as contemplated and provided for by the statutes and constitution relating to this subject. I can scarcely excuse myself for the omission. It was unfortunate, but I can assure you it was purely unintentional. I had trusted the matter of giving due attention to all legislative requirements of the last session, to one of my most trusted employees. One, who has rendered faithful and acceptable service in this office for more than twelve years last past, and who is himself personally in favor of the movement, but in some way the giving of this notice was overlooked until too late, and until the attention of the office

Allen, W.S., “Speeches and letters by Anna Lawther, 1910s,” 9 December 1918. Courtesy of University of Iowa Libraries and Archives
was called to the omission by one of the prominent leaders of the Equal Suffrage movement in the State.

The intimation by Mrs. Catt, that something may have been purposely wrong in the matter, is the first hint or suggestion of this character that has so far been brought to my attention. I have never before had the honesty of my motives questioned or disputed.

I have been a firm believer for years in the right of women to vote on the same conditions as the right of men, to cast the ballot at all elections for any and all purposes.

When a short time before the special election, at which the proposed constitutional amendment, granting the right of suffrage to women was to be submitted, I was one of the gentlemen who made an address here on the Capitol steps, at a reception given to Mrs. Field, who was carrying a monster petition from California, to be presented to the Congress at Washington, for equal suffrage. I responded in behalf of the State in the absence of Governor Clarke, and the Honorable H. W. Byers, corporation counsel of the city of Des Moines, spoke in behalf of the city. On that occasion I predicted that the equal suffrage amendment would carry in Iowa by 20,000 majority.
STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Des Moines

W. S. ALLEN, SECRETARY
R. M. WILLIAMS, DEPUTY

AL#3.

I have always thought there was something irregular in that election, and like yourself and Mrs. Catt, I feel that the women of Iowa did not receive fair treatment at the polls.

It is true as stated that none of the leaders in the movement called our attention to this notice in time for its publication, but I feel that that does not fully excuse the omission on our part, although many of the prominent leaders of the state have themselves offered this in extenuation and excuse, partially, for such omission.

I think there should be no question but what the coming General Assembly will again pass this resolution, if presented, and if Congress shall in the meantime take action favorably, I believe such action will be approved and ratified by our legislature this winter.

I shall certainly be pleased to render whatever assistance I am able to do, to bring about this desired result.

I think if Mrs. Catt was fully informed as to the situation in Iowa and knew better as to the personnel of the men directly connected with the failure to publish notice, that her criticism would be less severe and devoid of any suggestion that anyone had intentionally failed to perform his duty.
I regret, Miss Lawther, that I was not in the office when you called as I would have liked to have met you and talked the matter over with you. I hope that you will see me when next in the city.

Trusting that my explanation may at least be entirely satisfactory to yourself, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

W.S. Allen
Secretary of State.
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION, 1920.

BAINBRIDGE COLBY, Secretary of State of the United States of America.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

KNOW YE, That the Congress of the United States at the first session, sixty-sixth Congress begun at Washington on the nineteenth day of May in the year one thousand nine hundred and nineteen, passed a Resolution as follows: to wit—

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution extending the right of suffrage to women.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States.

"ARTICLE —.

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.
"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

And, further, that it appears from official documents on file in the Department of State that the Amendment to the Constitution of the United States proposed as aforesaid has been ratified by the Legislatures of the States of Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

And, further, that the States whose Legislatures have so ratified the said proposed Amendment, constitute three-fourths of the whole number of States in the United States.

NOW, therefore, be it known that I, Bainbridge Colby, Secretary of State of the United States, by virtue and in pursuance of Section 205 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, do hereby certify that the Amendment aforesaid has become valid to all intents and purposes as a part of the Constitution of the United States.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this 26th day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and [seal.] twenty.

BAINBRIDGE COLBY,
1823

Sculpture of Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, between 1921 and 1923

Harris & Ewing, “[Sculpture: Portrait Monument to Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony],” between 1921 and 1923.

Courtesy of Library of Congress