

WOMAN SUFFRAGE BY FEDERAL AMENDMENT

WHY?

SIX REASONS

1. Keeping pace with other countries demands it.

Suffrage for men and suffrage for women in other countries with few and minor exceptions has been granted by parliamentary act and not by referenda. Shall American women be penalized for being Americans?

2. Equal Rights demands it.

Men of this country have been enfranchised by various extensions of the voting privilege but in no single instance were they compelled to appeal to an electorate containing groups of unnaturalized foreigners, Negroes, Indians and illiterates. Shall American women be denied by the Federal Government which freely gives the vote to foreigners?

3. Relief from unjust State Constitutional obstructions demands it.

Many State Constitutions have made amendment so difficult that they either have never been amended or have not been amended when the subject is in the least controversial. Women of these States can only be enfranchised through Federal action.

4. Protection from inadequate Election Laws demands it.

The election laws of all States make inadequate provision for safeguarding the vote on constitutional amendments. There are vague uncertain laws for contesting fraudulent elections in most States and no laws at all for redress in twenty-four States.

5. Equal Status of men and women voters demands it.

Men's right to vote is protected by the Federal Constitution while the State by State enfranchisement of women would not give this protection to women since a woman who changes her residence from an Equal Suffrage State to a male suffrage State thereby becomes disfranchised.

6. The national significance of the question demands national action.

If women voters help elect a President of the Nation and choose a National administration, while women of other States are denied this voting privilege, do not these political inequalities render our government unrepublican, undemocratic and unfair?

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WHAT IS THE FEDERAL SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT?

An amendment to the Constitution of the United States conferring upon Women the Right of Suffrage.

Article

Section 1. 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.

Section 2. The Congress shall have power by appropriate legislation to enforce the provisions of this article.

This amendment was first introduced in 1878 by Senator Sargent of California.

This amendment when passed by a two-thirds vote of both Houses of Congress and ratified by three-fourths of the Legislatures of the States will enfranchise the women of the whole country.

Women in twelve States voted for President in 1916. These States are Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

One-quarter of the Senate	} Come from States where women vote.
One-sixth of the House	
One-fifth of the Electoral College	

These States comprise one-half of the territory of the United States, 15 per cent. of the population of the United States and one-quarter the total number of States.

The Constitution of the United States (Article 4, Section 4) guarantees a **Republican** form of government in which (Article I, Section 2) the **People** of the States elect their Representatives.

Until the **Women-People**, as well as the **Men-People**, elect their Representatives our government is Republican in form but not in fact.

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