

# **The American Woman Suffrage Movement**

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right to vote = suffrage = enfranchisement

# Be Prepared to...

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- Summarize the changes in women's rights that took place during this time period.

# Seneca Falls, New York 1848

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- *In the early 1800s, many women were involved in the abolition (anti-slavery) and temperance (no alcohol) movements*
- *A group of women and men gathered at a conference in Seneca Falls, NY in 1848*
- *This conference was led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott*
- *Conference attendees wrote the Declaration of Sentiments*

# Fifteenth Amendment, 1871

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- *Granted African-American men the right to vote*
- *Disappointed many women who thought African-American men and women would be enfranchised together*
- *African Americans were split over whether men should get vote before women*

# Before 1910

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- *National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA)*
- *Big leaders: Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton*
- *Two big strategies:*
  - *Try to win suffrage state by state*
  - *Try to pass a Constitutional Amendment (but this would need to be ratified by 36 states – or three-fourths)*

# Susan B. Anthony

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Susan B. Anthony

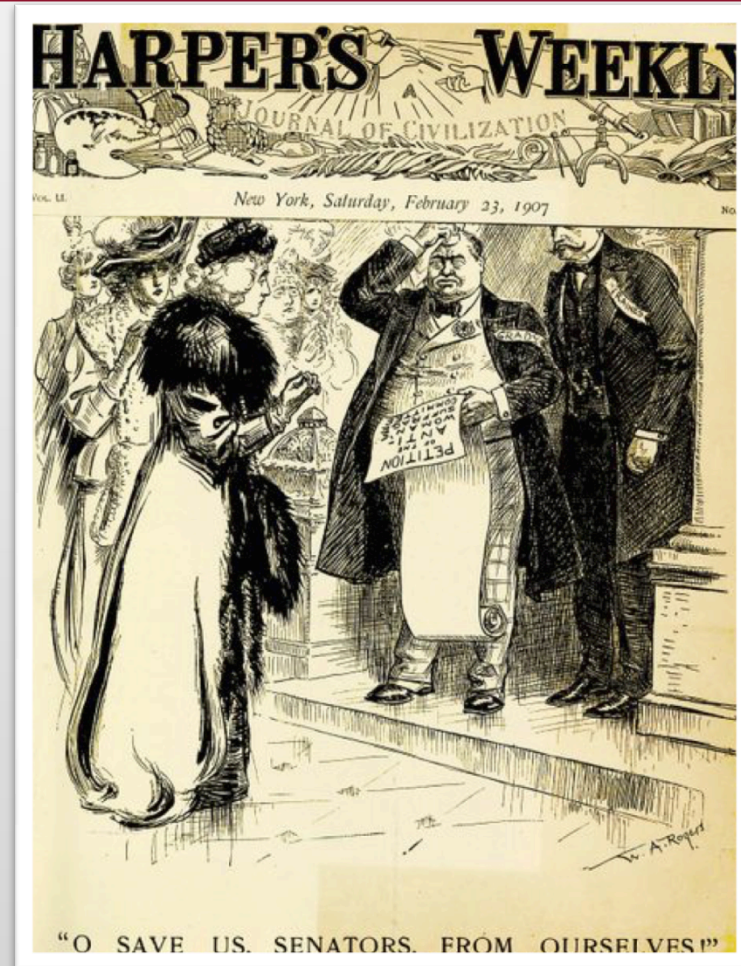
*In the late 1800s, Susan B. Anthony tried several times to introduce an Amendment bill for women's suffrage, but it was always killed in the Senate.*



# Anti-suffragists

*Those who opposed extending the right to vote to women were called anti-suffragists.*

*Many anti's were women.*



Political cartoon mocking anti's: "O Save Us, Senators, from Ourselves!"

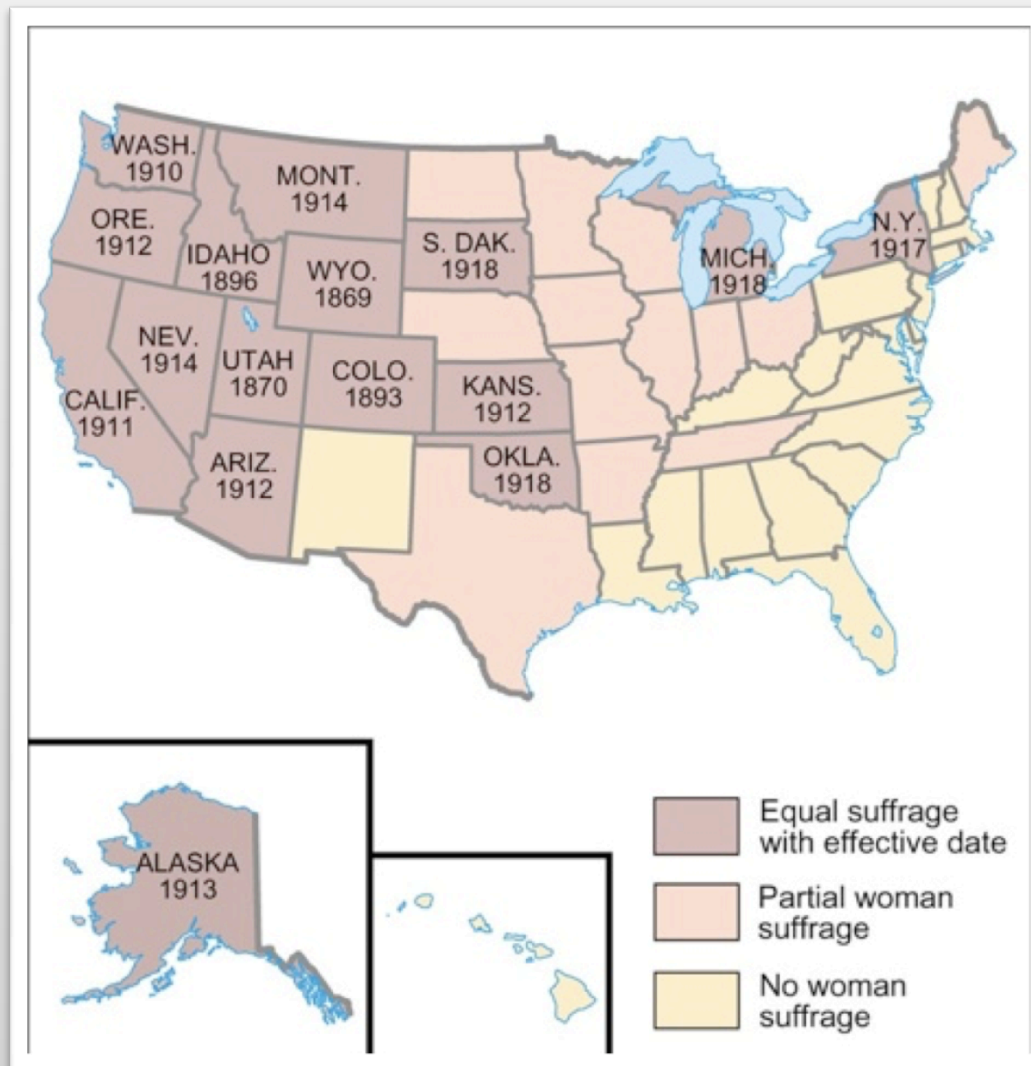
# Beliefs of Anti-Suffragists

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- *Women were high-strung, irrational, and emotional*
- *Women were not smart or educated enough*
- *Women should stay at home*
- *Women were too physically frail; they would get tired just walking to the polling station*
- *Women would become masculine if they voted*



# Map of Women's Suffrage Before 1920



# The Next Generation

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- *Elizabeth Cady Stanton died in 1902*
- *Susan B. Anthony died in 1906*
- *But in the early 1900s many young, middle-class women were going to college and joining the suffrage movement*
- *Many working-class women also joined the cause, hoping the right to vote would help improve working conditions*

# Safe or Sorry?

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***Carrie Chapman Catt*** led the *National American Woman Suffrage Association*.

*She believed in:*

- *Careful state-by-state strategy*
- *Supporting President Wilson even though he didn't outright support suffrage because Democrats were a safer bet than Republicans*
- *Acting ladylike so as not to embarrass the movement*

# National Woman's Party

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*Alice Paul led the NWP and believed in more aggressive strategies:*

- *Focused on passing a Constitutional Amendment*
- *Adopted un-ladylike strategies from British suffragettes (e.g. heckling politicians, picketing)*
- *Refused to support President Wilson if he wouldn't support woman suffrage*
- *NWP members were arrested for picketing in front of the White House. They were put in jail, went on a hunger strike, and were force-fed.*

# 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, 1920

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Tennessee was the 36<sup>th</sup> state to ratify, and it passed by only 1 vote.

*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.*

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- Summarize the changes in women's rights that took place during this time period.
  - Write as much as you can on the topic in 10 minutes.