

# *The Women's Suffrage Movement: 1848-1920*

## Pre-Civil War

1. Suffrage Movement began 1848 at Seneca Falls Convention (NY).
2. Issues: married women property rights, divorce reform, Child custody and woman suffrage (considered the most radical).

## Gilded Age

1. 1869: Susan B. Anthony and other women test 14th Amendment by voting. Anthony arrested, tried and found guilty for VOTING. She tells the judge "resistance to tyranny is obedience to God."
2. 1869-70 Woman's Movement splits over support of 14th Amendment. Some women's suffrage advocates think giving JUST black men the vote is an improvement (and it is), and that women will be next if they are patient. Others think that EVERY citizen should have been given the right to vote, not just black and white men.

## Turn of Century

1. National American Women's Suffrage Assoc. (often referred to as NAWSA or "the National") Stanton, Anthony and thousands of other women spent their entire adult lives working for women's suffrage, only to die before their work came to fruition.
2. Movement becomes racist and elite--some white women wanted vote to outvote immigrants and Blacks.
3. By early 1900s many western states had approved women's suffrage, including WY, UT, WA, CA, KA, MT, OR, AZ, CO, IA and NE.
4. **Jeannette Rankin** (from Montana) becomes first woman in U. S. Congress.

## WWI Era

1. Alice Paul learned radical tactics in England's Suffrage movement, breaks with NAWSA and forms **Nat'l Women's Party (NWP)**-This is the group which would picket the White House (the **IRON JAWED ANGELS**), get arrested and be terribly abused in jail--some spending months in jail for "obstructing traffic."
2. 1913 Women stage massive demonstration on Pennsylvania Ave.--upstage President Wilson's inauguration. Wilson ignores women abused in jail, on hunger strikes.
3. Women in WWI war effort: women in Red Cross, industrial work, government work, etc., change public's perception of capabilities of women. These changes benefit women.
4. Carrie Chapman Catt, new head of NAWSA, develops "**Winning Plan**," brings working class women into movement, combines state-by-state movement with Amendment movement. NAWSA stages "Suffrage Parades" that illustrate women's fitness to vote: women as disciplined, orderly, precise.
5. Southern congressmen offer to support women's suffrage, only if Black women are excluded. Catt considers offer, but women in the movement refuse the racist political deal. Southern politicians will NOT support women's suffrage, because they don't want Black women to vote.

## The 19th Amendment

1. "Susan B. Anthony" Amendment passed both houses in 1919.
2. Ratified by requisite 36 states and became law on **August 26, 1920**.

**All of that, just so women could vote. Do you?**