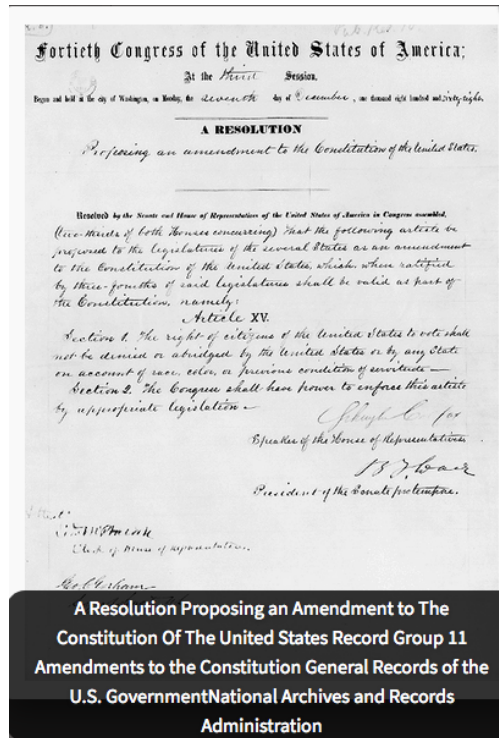


Middle School Lesson

The 100th Anniversary of the Right to Vote for Women in New Jersey and the United States



Core Idea: Understanding Perspectives

Prioritize the reasons below why women should vote and then categorize the reasons by themes. (cultural/social, political, other, etc.)

Document 1: Why Women Should Vote From a publication of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, Alice Stone Blackwell, Editor.
<http://loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/progress/suffrage/whyvote.html>

1. Because it is fair and right that those who must obey the laws should have a voice in making them, and that those who must pay taxes should have a vote as to the amount of the tax and the way it is spent.
2. Because the moral, educational, and humane legislation desired by women would be got more easily if women had votes. New York women have worked in vain for years to secure a legislative appropriation to found a state industrial School for Girls. Colorado women worked in vain for one till they got the ballot; then the Legislature promptly granted it.
3. Because laws unjust to women would be amended more quickly. Only 13 states give equal guardianship to mothers. New Jersey is not one of the 13 states.
4. Because women are not paid fair wages. Carroll D. Wright, National Commissioner of Labor said in an address delivered at Smith College "The lack of direct political influence constitutes a powerful reason why women's wages have been kept at a minimum."(February 12, 1902)

5. Because equal suffrage would increase the proportion of educated voters. The high schools of every state are graduating more girls than boys-often twice or three times as many. (Report of Commissioner of Education.)
6. Because it would increase the proportion of native-born voters as almost 1 million immigrants per year are coming to the United States and becoming citizens. 1901 - 1910: 8,795,386 immigrants arrive in the US; 1911 - 1920: 5,735,811 immigrants arrived in the US
7. Because woman's ballot will make it hard for the notoriously bad candidates to be nominated or elected. In the equal suffrage states, both parties have to elect people of respectable character or lose the women's vote.
8. Because it would increase women's influence as documented by the number of meetings state legislators in Colorado have with women's organizations. Club women outside the suffrage states do not have this experience.
9. Because experience has proved it to be good. Women have for years been voting in England, Scotland, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Utah, and Idaho. In all these places the opponents have not yet found a dozen respectable men who assert over their own names and addresses that the results have been bad, while scores of prominent men and women testify that it has done good.

Prioritize the reasons why people did NOT want women to vote and then categorize them by themes. (cultural/social, political, other) <https://sfpl.org/pdf/libraries/main/sfhistory/suffrageagainst.pdf>

1. Suffrage is not a right. It is a privilege that may or may not be granted. Politics is no place for a woman, consequently the privilege should not be granted to her.
2. The mother's influence is needed in the home. She can do little good by gadding the streets and neglecting her children. Let her teach her daughters that modesty, patience, and gentleness are the charms of a women.
3. The courageous, chivalrous, and manly men and the womanly women, the real mothers and home builders of the country, are opposed to this innovation in American political life. There was a bill (the Sanford bill) before the last legislature which proposed to leave the equal suffrage question to women to decide first before the men should vote on it. This bill was defeated by the suffragettes because they knew that the women would vote down the amendment by a vote of ten to one.
4. The men are able to run the government and take care of the women. Do women have to vote in order to receive the protection of man? Men have gone to war, endured every privation and death in defense of women.
5. Woman suffrage has been proven a failure in states that have tried it. It is wrong. Statistics show that in most equal suffrage states, Colorado particularly, that divorces have greatly increased since the adoption of the equal suffrage amendment, showing that it has been a home destroyer. Crime has also increased due to lack of the mothers in the home.
6. Woman is woman. She cannot change her sphere. Let her be content with her lot and perform those high duties intended for her by the Great Creator, and she will accomplish far more in governmental affairs that she can ever accomplish by mixing up in the dirty pool of politics. Keep the home pure and all will be well with the Republic. Let not the sanctity of the home be invaded by every little

politician that may be running up and down the highway for office. Let the manly men and the womanly women defeat this amendment and keep woman where she belongs in order that she may retain the respect of all mankind.

From **Argument Against Women's Suffrage, 1911** Prepared by J. B. Sanford, Chairmen of Democratic Caucus
 ARGUMENT AGAINST SENATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 8 J. B. Sanford, Senator 4th District.

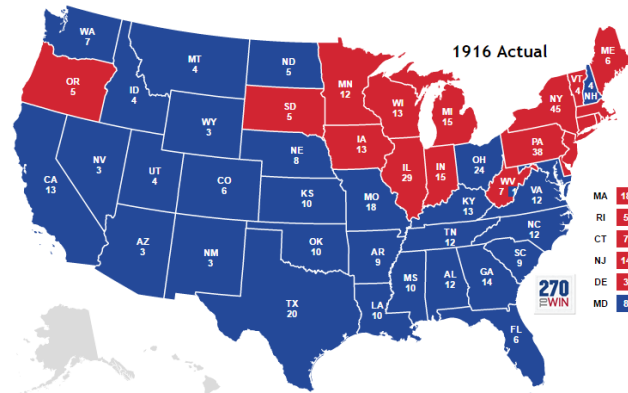
Activity: Make a chart or table to identify the different perspectives relating to the debate on giving women in the United states the right to vote. Arrange for a dinner table discussion in a home or café for your students to discuss, debate, and prioritize the basis of the different perspectives as political, cultural, social, or if they are based on gender, education, race, age, etc.

Optional Activity: Divide your students into three groups to discuss the following three questions. Consider having them make a statement (Claim) and support it with evidence from research.

Did giving women the right to vote significantly change the outcome of the presidential elections in the 1920s?

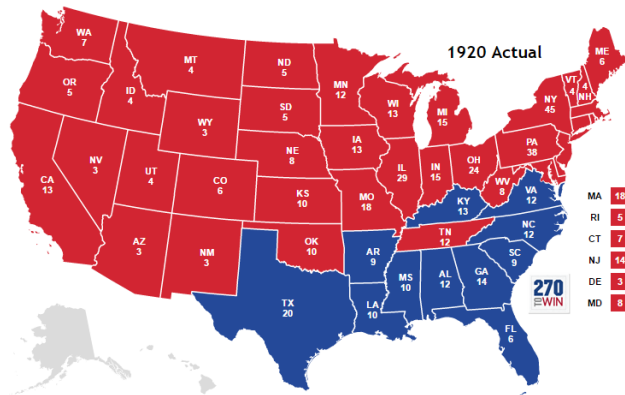
Document 1: 1916 Election Results

Candidate	Party	Electoral Votes	Popular Votes
✓ Woodrow Wilson (I)	Democratic	277	9,129,606
Charles E. Hughes	Republican	254	8,538,221
Allan Benson	Socialist	0	585,113



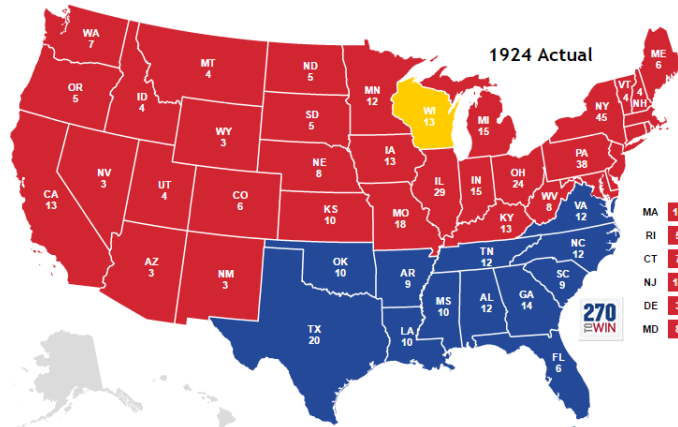
Document 2: 1920 Election Results

	Candidate	Party	Electoral Votes	Popular Votes
✓	Warren G. Harding	Republican	404	16,152,200
	James M. Cox	Democratic	127	9,147,353
	Eugene Debs	Socialist	0	919,799



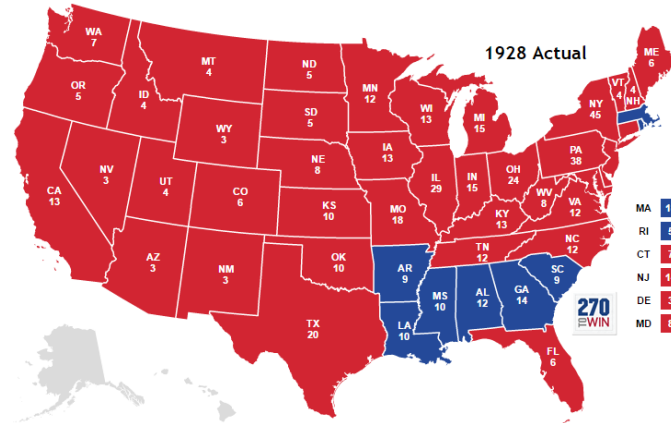
Document 3: 1924 Election Results

	Candidate	Party	Electoral Votes	Popular Votes
✓	Calvin Coolidge (I)	Republican	382	15,725,016
	John W. Davis	Democratic	136	8,386,503
	Robert M. LaFollette	Progressive	13	4,822,856



Document 4: 1928 Election Results

Candidate	Party	Electoral Votes	Popular Votes
✓ Herbert C. Hoover	Republican	444	21,391,381
Alfred E. Smith	Democratic	87	15,016,443



Resource: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/the-internationalist-history-of-the-us-suffrage-movement.htm>

Did granting women the right to vote make a difference in presidential elections?

Observers expected a flood of women voters in the 1920 presidential election. In fact, women's turnout matched that of men, about 50 percent--one of the lowest turnouts in years.

Did giving women the right to vote make a difference? Women voters showed a special concern for social issues. Women voters were more likely than men to make people aware of issues involving children, education, and health care. They were also strong advocates of peace. The issues that dominated American politics during the 1920s-- education, the establishment of maternal and infant health care clinics, pacifism, and prohibition--reflected women's mounting political influence. http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook_print.cfm?smtid=2&psid=3207

According to the [1920 United States Presidential Election Wikipedia](#), "The total vote for 1920 was roughly 26,750,000, an increase of eight million from 1916. The Democratic vote was almost exactly the vote from 1916, but the Republican vote nearly doubled, as did the "other" vote..."

Document 5: Women Must Learn to Play the Game as Men Do, *Red Book Magazine* 50 (April 1928): 78-79, 141-42. (Document has been abridged)

Women have been voting for ten years. But have they achieved actual political equality with men? No. They go through the gesture of going to the polls; their votes are solicited by politicians; and they possess the external aspect of equal rights. But it is mostly a gesture without real power. With some outstanding exceptions, women who have gone into politics are refused serious consideration by the men leaders. Generally they are treated most courteously, to be sure, but what they want, what they have to say, is regarded as of little weight. In fact, they have no actual influence or say at all in the consequential councils of their parties.

In small things they are listened to; but when it comes to asking for important things they generally find they are up against a blank wall. This is true of local committees, State committees, and the national organizations of both major political parties.

From all over the United States, women of both camps have come to me, and their experiences are practically the same. When meetings are to be held at which momentous matters are to be decided, the women members often are not asked. When they are notified of formal meetings where important matters are to be ratified, they generally find all these things have been planned and prepared, without consultation with them, in secret confabs of the men beforehand. If they have objections to proposed policies or candidates, they are adroitly overruled. They are not allowed to run for office to any appreciable extent and if they propose candidates of their own sex, reasons are usually found for their elimination which, while diplomatic and polite, are just pretexts nevertheless.

In those circles which decide the affairs of national politics, women have no voice or power whatever. On the national committee of each party there is a woman representative from every State, and a woman appears as vice-chairman. Before national elections they will be told to organize the women throughout the United States, and asked to help in minor ways in raising funds. But when it comes to those grave councils at which possible candidates are discussed, as well as party policies, they are rarely invited in. At the national conventions no woman has ever been asked to serve on the platform committee.

Politically, as a sex, women are generally "frozen out" from any intrinsic share of influence in their parties.

The machinery of party politics has always been in the hands of men, and still is. Our statesmen and legislators are still keeping in form as the successors of the early warriors gathering around the campfire plotting the next day's attack. Yes, they have made feints indicating they are willing to take women into the high councils of the parties. But, in fact, the women who have gone into the political game will tell you they are excluded from any actual kind of important participation. They are called upon to produce votes, but they are kept in ignorance of noteworthy plans and affairs. Their requests are seldom refused outright, but they are put off with a technique that is an art in itself. The fact is that generally women are not taken seriously. With certain exceptions, men still as a class dismiss their consequence and value in politics, cherishing the old-fashioned concept that their place is in the home. While women's votes are a factor to be counted upon, and figure largely in any impending campaign, the individual women who figure in party councils are regarded by their male conferees as having no real power back of them. And they haven't.

Men who work hard in party politics are always recognized, or taken care of in one way or another. Women, most of whom are voluntary workers and not at all self-seeking, are generally expected to find in their labor its own reward. When it comes to giving the offices or dealing out favors, men are always given precedence.

They will ask women to run for office now and then, sometimes because they think it politic and wise to show women how generous they are, but more often because they realize in advance their ticket cannot win in the district selected. Therefore, they will put up a woman, knowing it will injure the party less to have a woman defeated, and then they can always say it was her sex that defeated her. Where victory is certain, very rarely can you get a woman nominated on the party ticket.

Of course, there are women all over the United States who have been elected to high and important offices. There are three women in Congress; there have been two woman governors; and women sit in various State legislatures and hold State offices. In New York City one could cite several who have not only been elected but who have conducted themselves in office with ability and distinction. But does that indicate any equal recognition of share in political power? Infinitely more examples come to mind of women who were either denied a nomination or who were offered it only when inevitable defeat stared the party leaders in the face....

To many women who fought so long and so valiantly for suffrage, what has happened has been most discouraging. For one reason or another, most of the leaders who carried the early fight to success have dropped out of politics. This has been in many ways unfortunate. Among them were women with gifts of real leadership. They were exceptional and high types of women, idealists concerned in carrying a cause to victory, with no idea of personal advancement or gain. In fact, attaining the vote was only part of a program for equal rights--an external gesture toward economic independence, and social and spiritual equality with men.

When the franchise was finally achieved, their interest was not held by any ambition for political preferment or honors. To learn the intricate machinery of politics and play the men's game left them cold. The routine of political office held no appeal. One of the most prominent of those early crusaders today gives her energies to campaigning for world peace. By nature a propagandist, it would be impossible to interest her in either of the major parties. Another woman, who donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to the cause, frankly admits she has never even cast a vote. She considers the situation, with women coping with men in the leading parties, utterly hopeless. Like many others, she regards suffrage as an empty victory, equal rights a travesty, and the vote a gesture without power....

The trouble with many women is that they won't work. They won't take up their jobs as men do and put in seven or eight real working hours a day. They lack knowledge, and at that many won't take the pains to study history, economics, political methods or get out among human beings. If they take a volunteer political job, it is a thing of constant interruptions, with no sense of application, concentration, business efficiency or order. One of the reasons why men leaders so often do not consider as important what a woman says is that they do not feel sure she has been active among the mass of women voters and has learned what they want. In fact, many women do make the mistake of "talking out of a blue sky" instead of going about, mixing with women, and getting their point of view from close personal contact and practical experience. When a man leader says his following want certain things, the men higher up realize that he knows what he is talking about, and that he has gone through his district....

In the average home a woman's job is full of interruptions; and so, unless she sets out to methodize her life, she is apt to go through many wasted motions. Now many volunteer political workers come out of such unorganized homes. When the children are small, if they have little help in their homes, the mothers cannot do outside work. But as the children grow up--or in rare cases before they are married--they may turn to politics as an outside interest. If they are women of means and have more help at home, they may still have led disorganized lives, for of necessity a home and children make unexpected demands.

I should not want the average woman, or the exceptional woman for that matter, who for one reason or another could not do a public job well, to take one at present. For just now a woman must do better than a man, for whatever she does in the public eye reflects on the whole cause of women. There are women in the United States I would gladly see run for any office. But if we cannot have the best I should prefer to wait and prepare a little longer until women are more ready to make a fine contribution to public life in any office they might hold....

Remember, women have voted just ten years. They have held responsible positions in big business enterprises only since the war, to any great extent. The men at the head of big business or controlling politics are for the most part middle-aged men. Their wives grew up in an era when no public question was discussed in a popular manner, when men talked politics over their wine or cigars, and pulled their waistcoats down, on joining the ladies, to talk music, or the play or the latest scandal. Can you blame them if the adjustment to modern conditions is somewhat difficult?

Certain women profess to be horrified at the thought of women bosses bartering and dickering in the hard game of politics with men. But many more women realize that we are living in a material world, and

that politics cannot be played from the clouds. To sum up, women must learn to play the game as men do. If they go into politics, they must stick to their jobs, respect the time and work of others, master a knowledge of history and human nature, learn diplomacy, subordinate their likes and dislikes of the moment and choose leaders to act for them and to whom they will be loyal. They can keep their ideals; but they must face facts and deal with them practically.

The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project, erpapers@gwu.edu
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2100 Foxhall Road NW, Room 312, Washington, DC 20007, Phone: 202-994-3000 | Fax: 202-994-3043

Document 6: Women's Rights Advanced During Prohibition

Women's public, private and political lives forever changed during the Prohibition era. Their involvement in passing the Prohibition amendment in 1919, gaining the right to vote a year later, and their growing autonomy at home, in the workplace and in relationships launched American women into uncharted territory.

The Prohibition amendment prohibiting the sale, manufacture and transportation of alcohol would not have passed without the persistence of the women involved in the temperance movement starting in the 19th century. The best known women's organization favoring Prohibition was the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). Throughout American history women have been involved in social clubs and charities, but the temperance movement not only allowed women to become participants in national politics, they were the driving force on this issue. These women were regulators of morality and advocates for other women and children who had been abused by drunken husbands and fathers.

By aligning the prohibition movement with the suffrage movement, women were able to drum up strong support for women's right to vote. While the push for suffrage began in the middle of the 19th century, efforts surged forward during the 1910s with the National Woman's Party. Several women's suffrage associations produced pamphlets and magazines promoting their cause. Many women tried to vote illegally, picketed the White House, and went to jail for protesting.

In 1918 President Woodrow Wilson switched his stance on women's suffrage and equated suffrage with the escalated involvement of women in World War I efforts. Just seven months after enacting the 18th Amendment, the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote passed. Throughout the 1920s women made more political progress. Maria C. Brehm was the first female candidate for vice president when she ran on the Prohibition Party ticket in 1924.

Not only did public and political life undergo drastic changes for women during the Prohibition era, but women's private lives changed as well. Women stepped into jobs while the men were away fighting in World War I, allowing them to make their own money. Riding the wave from Prohibition and women's voting rights, the Roaring Twenties saw the rise of consumerism and technology. Widespread consumption of material goods filtered into homes through catalogues and magazines that grew thanks to advances in printing technology. During the Prohibition Era advertising companies began targeting women, empowering them with the ability to make buying choices and spend their own money.

These innovations afforded women from different socioeconomic backgrounds the chance to advance their status and to make more decisions for their households. Mass production techniques decreased the cost of products and allowed for women to become major players in the increasingly consumer-driven popular culture. Cosmetics as a consumer good soared in popularity.

The broad change in women's rights and American culture during the Prohibition era reshaped the lives of women. Their newfound rights and liberties changed the way women were viewed by themselves and others and expanded their roles within society. These changes allowed women to transform from the traditional, essentially subservient roles of the Victorian era to the "New Woman" of the Prohibition era.

<http://prohibition.themobmuseum.org/the-history/how-prohibition-changed-american-culture/womens-rights/>

Who is denied the right to vote today? (youth under age 18, people in prisons, legal immigrants who are not citizens, people who are eligible but who did not register.)

<https://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2015/08/04/voting-rights-still-a-political-issue-50-years-later>

<https://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/elections/voting-rights-native-americans.html>

Should the right to vote be extended to age 16? (Make a list of pro/con arguments, discuss if youth at age 16 and 17 have the educational background to make an informed vote, discuss the independence that an 18-year old has as a legal adult.)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/07/learning/should-the-voting-age-be-lowered-to-16.html>

<https://firstamendmentvoice.org/2018/06/the-pros-and-cons-of-lowering-the-legal-voting-age-in-the-united-states/>

<https://www.debate.org/opinions/should-the-voting-age-be-reduced-to-16>