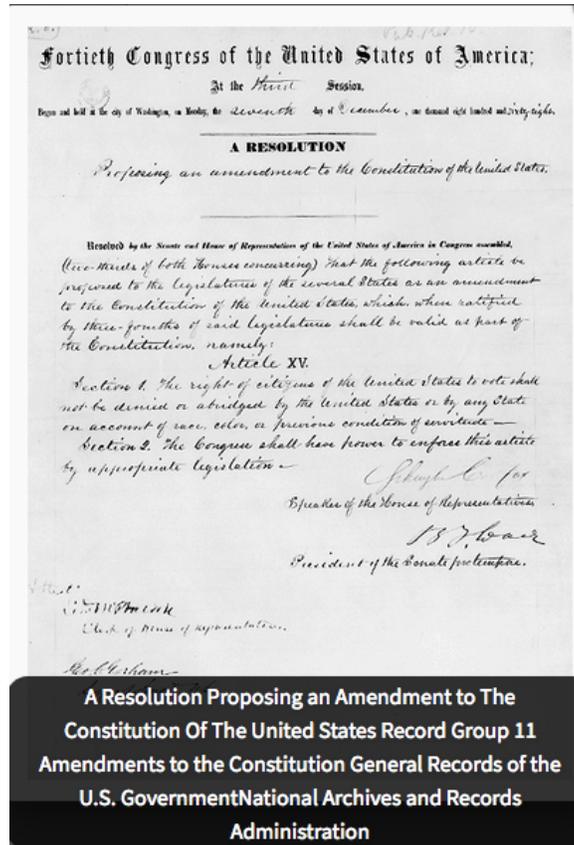


## Middle School Lesson

### Who Should President Warren G. Harding Invite to the White House?



#### Core Idea: Civic Participation

Select ONE of the suffragists below for a special invitation to receive a Civic Award from president Warren G. Harding at the White House. Students will meet in four groups to design the award, write the Acceptance Speech for their candidate, and provide evidence to the White House staff supporting their selection over the other three nominations.

## Julia Ward Howe: *The Celebrity* (1819-1910)



*Julia Ward Howe*

In 1862, *Atlantic Monthly* published Julia Howe's poem, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," which she wrote in the early morning during her stay at the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C.

After the Civil War, She helped to found the New England Suffrage Association in 1868, and the Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Association. Howe joined Lucy Stone in founding the American Woman Suffrage Association, which championed the Fifteenth Amendment. She was also the editor of the AWSA's newspaper, the *Woman's Journal*.

When her husband died in 1876, he left nothing in his will for her. All of her wealth from her popular poem was either lost to bad investments made by her husband or left to others in his will. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century many people thought suffrage was a threat to the character of a woman and condemned suffragists as being too aggressive and un-Christian. Julia fought against the attitude of disapproval by men. Julia Ward Howe was the first person to advocate a day to recognize the contributions of mothers following the Civil War. President Wilson made Mother's Day a national holiday in 1914.

"The weapon of Christian warfare is the ballot," she said. "Adopt it, O you women, with clean hands and a pure heart!" Julia's words to "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" called for justice for the enslaved. "As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free," Julia wrote. In the same way, she saw the vote as the way to break free of societal slavery. "Make your protest against tyranny, meanness, and injustice!" she urged women. Julia's passion drew women of wealth and material comfort into the fight for women's suffrage. <https://www.thoughtco.com/julia-ward-howe-early-years-3529325>  
<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/julia-ward-howe>

### **Carrie Chapman Catt: *The Teacher* (1859-1947)**



In 1902, Carrie Chapman Catt founded the International Woman Suffrage Alliance to spread democracy around the globe. In 1904, her husband died of typhoid fever and she inherited his fortune as editor and publisher of the *Mason City Republican*. She also helped found the Woman's Peace Party in 1915. She coordinated state suffrage campaigns which supported the movement leading to the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Alice Paul and Lucy Burns, favored public marches and picketing the White House. Her efforts contributing to women gaining the right to vote in New York in 1917. She also founded the League of Women Voters to educate women on political issues, especially child labor and world peace. She attended Iowa State College (University) and received a degree in education. She was an assistant principal in Mason City, Iowa for five years before she was married.

Her contributions to the ratification are significant as she organized conventions, led a march of 50,000 people on Fifth Avenue in NYC, gained the right for women to vote in local and school elections, and spoke to many local groups in cafes, on porches, and in churches, and distributed posters and pamphlets.

<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/carrie-chapman-catt>

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/national-american-woman-suffrage-association/articles-and-essays/carrie-chapman-catt/>

### **Ida Bell Wells: *Reformer and Activist* (1857-1944)**



Ida Bell Wells was born into slavery in Holly Springs, Mississippi on July 16, 1862. She enrolled in Rust College and had some experience as a classroom teacher. Her parents died of yellow fever when she was young and raised her brothers and sister. Wells-Barnett enrolled at Rust College but was expelled when she started a dispute with the university president. At the age of 22, she filed a lawsuit against a railroad in Memphis because she was removed as a first-class passenger even though she had a valid ticket. She also took a public stand against white mob violence after one of her friends was lynched.

In 1893, Wells-Barnett, joined other African American leaders in calling for the boycott of the World's Columbian Exposition. The boycotters accused the exposition committee of locking out African Americans and negatively portraying the black community. In 1895, Wells-Barnett married famed African American lawyer Ferdinand Barnett. Together, the couple had four children. Throughout her career Wells-Barnett, balanced motherhood with her activism.

She openly confronted white women leaders in the suffrage movement because they ignored issues of racism, civil rights, and lynching. When she moved to Chicago, she organized black women to help people in prison, receive fair wages, integrate public transportation, the right to vote, and her efforts resulted in Chicago electing the city's first black alderman, Oscar Stanton De Priest. In the March 3, 1913 march for suffrage in Washington, D.C., Ida Tarbell and many other black women were instructed to march at the end of the parade for fear that an integrated march would hurt their cause for a national constitutional amendment. Ida Tarbell did not obey this directive and marched with the white suffragists from Illinois.

<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/ida-b-wells-barnett>  
<https://www.theatlantic.com/membership/archive/2019/06/ida-b-wells-uncompromising-view-of-suffrage/592639/>

**Lucy Burns, Protestor, (1879 – 1966)**



Lucy Burns was born in the Park Slope neighborhood of Brooklyn to Irish-American parents. She attended Vassar, Yale, Columbia, Oxford, and two universities in Germany. She attended her first suffrage meeting in England where she heard Emmeline Pankhurst. The speaker, Emmeline Pankhurst, was electrifying. She disrupted political meetings and damaged private property. As a result she was arrested and sent to prison three times and went on hunger strikes twice.

In the United States, Lucy and Alice Paul worked together in the National American Woman Suffrage Association and organized the 1913 Woman Suffrage March in Washington, D.C. she wrote numerous editorials, picketed the White House, and editor of *The Suffragist*.

She was arrested six times and experienced physical abuse while in prison on November 14-15, 1917. <https://www.nps.gov/people/lucy-burns.htm>

**Alice Paul: *Global Activist* (1885 – 1977)**



Alice Paul attended Swarthmore College, a Quaker school cofounded by her grandfather, graduating with a biology degree in 1905. She attended the New York School of Philanthropy (Columbia University) and received a Master of Arts degree in sociology in 1907. She then went to England to study social work, and after returning, earned a Ph.D from the University of Pennsylvania in 1910.

While in England, Alice Paul joined the women's suffrage movement where she learned militant protest tactics, picketing and hunger strikes. When she returned to the United States in 1912, she joined the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) and later formed the National Woman's Party to lobby Congress for the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

Alice Paul organized parades and pickets in support of suffrage. Her first—and the largest—was in Washington, DC, on March 3, 1913, the day before President-elect Woodrow Wilson's inauguration. Approximately eight thousand women marched with banners and floats down Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol to the White House, with a half million spectators along the route.

In January 1917, Alice Paul began a long campaign of eighteen months of picketing the White House. Alice Paul was sentenced to jail for seven months, where she organized a hunger strike in protest. In 1918, President Wilson announced his support for woman suffrage. When the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified on August 18, 1920, Alice Paul wrote in her diary: "Suffrage was granted to women and we voted for the first time for the President Nov. 1920."

<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/alice-paul>

### **Optional Activity:**

**Design a Poster or Record a Song** (Rap Rock, Country) that illustrates the importance of voting in a democracy or illustrates the historical timeline of expanding the vote in the United States.