RIGHTFULLY HERS

The fight to win women the right to vote in the United States was not easily or quickly won.

To win women access to the polls, a diverse group of suffragists—individuals who supported giving voting rights to women—fought for more than 70 years using many different strategies:

- Some focused on amending the U.S. Constitution while others worked to change state election laws.
- Suffragists lobbied privately in their parlors and publicly in the halls of Congress.
- They wrote articles, circulated petitions, gave speeches, organized marches, and were sometimes imprisoned for their protests.
 Over time these tactics won support for woman suffrage that led to the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S.
 Constitution in 1920.



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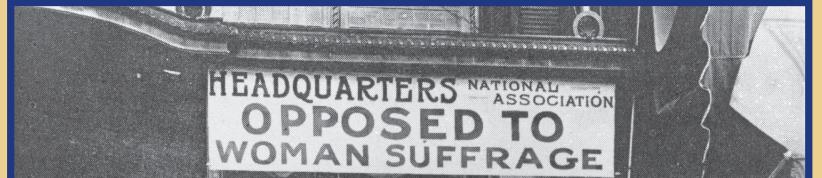
African American Women's League group, Newport, Rhode Island, ca. 1911 Courtesy of the Library of Congress

A Struggle within the Struggle

MANY RESISTED OPENING POLLS TO WOMEN. WHY?

Some men and women argued, among other reasons, that women's involvement in politics would change her role in the family and take power away from men. Others believed the decision of who votes belonged to the states. Like suffragists, anti-suffragists formed organizations to resist a

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Harriet Stanton Blatch speaking on Wall Street, 1910 Courtesy of the Library of Congress

African Americans played an important and active role in the woman suffrage movement. Because of their race, however, black women were not always welcome at white-led suffrage meetings and demonstrations. African American women formed their own clubs to pursue reform issues, including woman suffrage.

PETITION FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE. TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, The undersigned, Citizens of the United States, Residents of the State of Dist-of Col, Town of Minion Town earnestly pray your Honorable Body to adopt measures for so amending the Constitution as to prohibit the several States from Adopt measures for so anothering (Disfranchising United States Citizens on account of Sex. WOMEN: ms. Fresk: Jouglap Jr. My Nartan Spragne Colored Fresk. Donglops for Nathan Amagur Mrs. quila Dorsey Ignations Dorsey Mautias H.Klunter Wry. Eliza, a. specice Mus Delphia Latinbury acole, moore Pel Brown. Mors Mary vberry Respons Edward Brown farriett. H. Lee Caroline Burnett Jane Dawson John A lougler Villere Dayles Alice Scotts Rozie Harris Abies belie Ing Mile Elizabeth Chase Mus. Caroline Chase. famera Shaw. ansdale John H Dunnington · B budlip Smith 18

federal woman suffrage amendment. Formed in 1911, the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage had branches in 25 states by 1916.

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National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage headquarters, 1919 National Archives, Records of the U.S. Information Agency

Sixteen members of the National Woman's Party picketing in front of the White House, Washington, D.C., which led to their arrest, July 14, 1917 National Archives, Records of the War Department

Petition for woman suffrage signed by siblings Rosetta Douglass Sprague and Frederick Douglass, Jr., 1877 National Archives, Records of the U.S. House of Representatives

