

US History Progressive Politicians

Learning Target:

I can compare the different strategies used by women's groups to achieve the right to vote.

7. Women's Suffrage

Who opposed women's suffrage?

1. Liquor Interests – Feared that if women gained the right to vote they would vote for prohibition.
2. Big Business – Feared that the right to vote would empower women to demand better wages and working conditions

Popular reasons as to why women should not vote –

- Would rob women of their beauty and charm
- Not as smart as men
- Too emotional for politics

Two Groups / Two Approaches:

1. National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) (1890) -

- First two presidents, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, distrusted party politics and took a nonpartisan approach at the state level
- Developed a state level protest strategy
- Not very successful at first
- By 1901 only four states out west allowed women to vote

2. National Woman's Party -

- Formed by Alice Paul, a militant suffragist who broke away from the NAWSA, and formed the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage which would become the National Woman's Party
- Party adopted a national rather than state protest strategy
- Used militant and attention grabbing tactics to protest
 - Examples – Round the clock picketing of the White House
 - Chained themselves to railings and went on hunger strikes

Success For Women's Suffrage:

- Energized by the emergence of Carrie Chapman Catt as their president the NAWSA launched Catt's Winning Plan in 1916

Catt's Winning Plan –

- Entailed several state level successes
- Capitalized on the patriotism of women during the beginning of WWI
- Wilson gave his support
- 1918 Senate vote fell four votes short so the NAWSA immediately targeted the four senators who voted no and were up for re-election
- Got them removed and replaced with supporters

Nineteenth Amendment –

- Granted full voting rights to all women
- Passed in 1919 and ratified in 1920