

# The 19th Amendment

Did you know that women didn't even have the right to vote till the 1920s? The 19th amendment makes sure American women could have the right to vote. In 1869 the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) was made to get the amendment to the U.S Constitution. The leaders of the group were Susan B., Anthony, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. The amendment was first presented in 1878 by the NAWSA. Alice Paul knew that the work they did had just started. While the government knew the women's right to vote, a lot of them were still being discriminated against. If they changed the amendment, it would be an agreement that all people could vote despite their gender.

## Alice Paul

Alice Paul was leading protests at the White House and Congress, and this was happening during World War I. They didn't let the war stop them though. Alice and her associates were arrested and got imprisoned. When they got out, they took on hunger strikes, but the experience didn't get better when they endured force-feeding led by the police. Alice Paul advised and assisted in sealing the passage of the 19th Amendment for the US Constitution. It was to guarantee women's rights to vote. She next created the Equal Rights Amendment in 1923, but that hasn't been adopted yet. Another person who assisted in sealing the amendment for American women had the right to vote was Carrie Clinton Lane Chapman Catt.

## Carrie Clinton Lane Chapman Catt

Carrie was a suffragist and a peacemaker. She started to become included in the suffragist movement in the late 1880s. It started becoming appealing when she noticed that her mother didn't have the same voting rights as her father. Then, she became a part of the NAWSA and a phenomenal speaker. Carrie soon was asked to give world-wide speeches and to help arrange the suffragist

chapters in the district. Elizabeth Cady Stanton was the first president for 20 years but resigned in 1892. Carrie was elected to fill the chair of the NAWSA president in 1900.

## Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Elizabeth Cady Stanton was an abolitionist and human rights, activist. She was the first president of the NAWSA. She brought out a racist defense for the other side. She was against uneducated, African- American people voting before educated, caucasian women vote. She was making the unfit, voting population get larger. Susan B. Anthony had her back in this accusation. She yelled out, “then give it first to women, to the most intelligent & capable of the women at least.” Basically saying that they are putting on display their racial hierarchy.

## Sojourner Truth

Sojourner Truth was an African-American abolitionist and a woman's right activist. She helped African-American people get freedom by escaping on the underground railroad after she moved in 1857 to Battle Creek. Sojourner was born into slavery and had a daughter, but they fled to freedom in 1826. She had faced many challenges that caucasian women didn't have to face. Sojourner had to face the challenge of combating a suffrage movement. They weren't going to link it to the anti-slavery sources, because they believed it could hurt getting women's rights.

## Ida B. Wells

Ida B. Wells was an investigative journalist, activist, and suffragist. Wells wrote her an autobiography called, “Crusade for Justice.” She went to a parade in 1913 that was arranged by Alice Paul and Lucy Burns. The NAWSA took a vote about whether the parade should be segregated or not. Their decision was that it should be segregated. Paul proclaimed that the “colored” women should stand in the back. Wells didn't let her words get to her, she stood for what she believed in and Wells was standing on the sidelines, but when the marchers from Chicago passed, she dauntlessly walked to the start of the procession. Then she

wrote in her autobiography, "I am not taking this stand because I personally wish for recognition. I am doing it for the future benefit of my whole race."

## Conclusion

People ask, "what's the reason for women in politics?" The reason for women to have the right to vote is because, when voting for people it just doesn't affect the men, it also affects the women. Whether they have, "colored" skin or if they have "white." They have gone through obstacles, some more than others. Another reason, laws that affect children need the perspective of a woman as much as a man. That is part of why women should be in politics.