

MODULE D: WHITE WOMEN TAKING A STAND IN NEW JERSEY

Overview

Modern interpretations of the women’s suffrage efforts in the United States have most commonly been associated with demonstrations, parades, and protests in Washington, DC. However, the 1915 New Jersey Amendment Campaign stands apart for its complexity, its scope of involvement crossing both economic and ethnic lines, and its connections to the larger national movement.

In this lesson, students will examine the actions of the New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association taking a stand for voting rights for women in New Jersey. The students will analyze a political action flyer, a report on NJWSA campaign activities, and a newspaper article to address the following questions:

- What actions were taken by this group to secure the right to vote in New Jersey?
- How could these actions in New Jersey impact voting rights across the United States?

Materials

- “The Next President” Flyer: New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association, 1915, *On Account of Sex: The Struggle for Women’s Suffrage in Middlesex County*, Rutgers University Libraries, Special Collections and University Archives, womensuffrage.libraries.rutgers.edu/items/show/420.
- Report: “Campaign Activities,” *Campaign Statement of New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association: A Resume of Campaign Activities and an Analysis of the Vote on the Woman Suffrage Amendment in the State of New Jersey*, October 19, 1915, 1915, Ann Lewis Women’s Suffrage Collection, lewissuffragecollection.omeka.net/items/show/1259.
- Newspaper Article: “State Women Aiding Cause of Organized Suffragists,” *Perth Amboy (N.J.) Evening News*, July 11, 1919, p. 6, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, Library of Congress, chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85035720/1919-07-11/ed-2/.

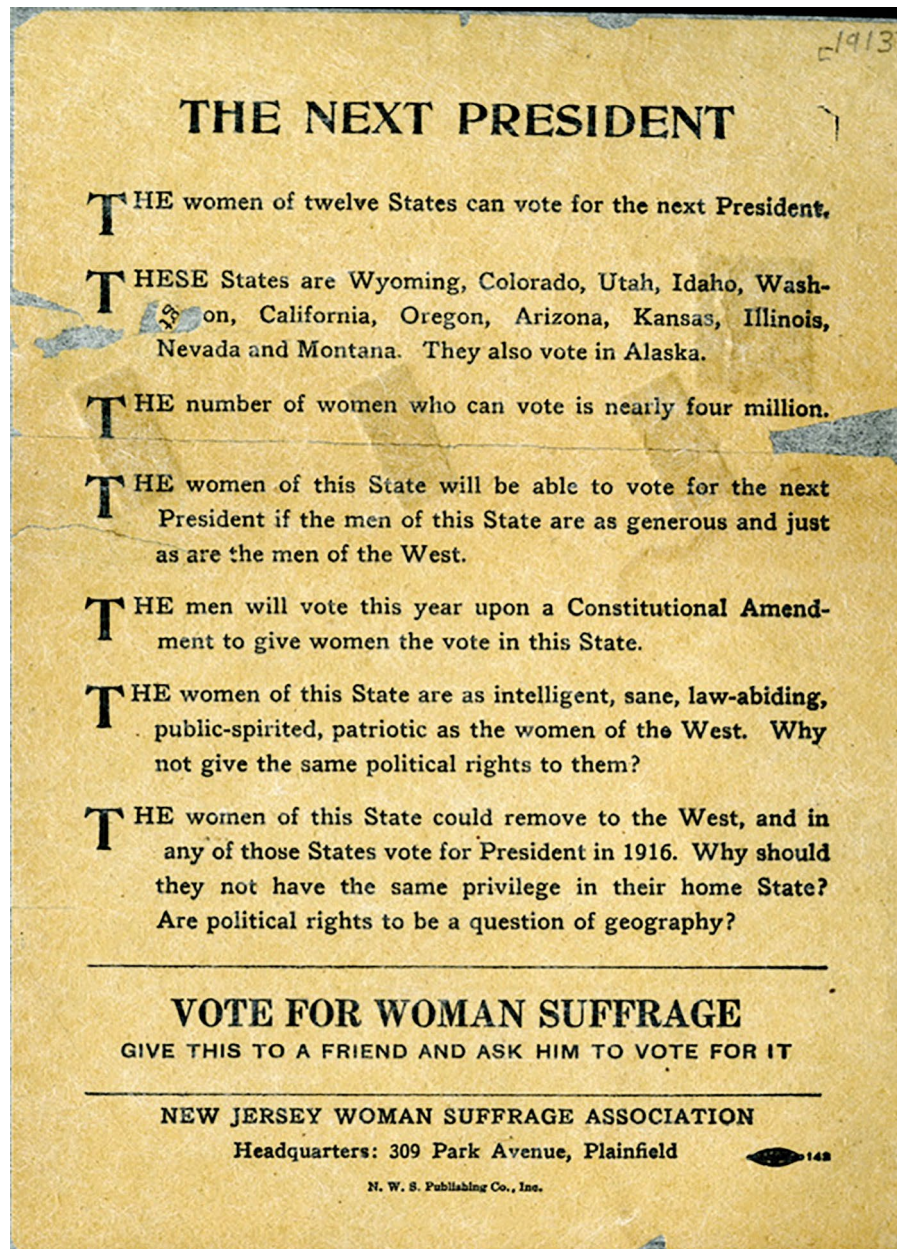
Procedure

- 1. Lesson Preparation (5 minutes):** Remind students of the essential questions.
- 2. Lesson Activity (30–35 minutes)**
 - a. Students will carefully read the three documents provided in the “1915 Woman Suffrage Amendment Campaign Document Set.”
 - b. They will complete the “Critical Analysis” activity sheet. Questions require students to cite textual evidence from each document.
 - c. The “Final Task” on the activity sheet requires students to write a paragraph, citing evidence from the documents, to summarize how this group sought to secure the right to vote.
- 3. Lesson Activity Debrief (10 minutes):**
 - a. Place the students in groups of two or three to discuss their answers.
 - b. Were there discrepancies among group members’ interpretations of the documents? If so, revisit the documents for clarification.
- 4. Discussion (5–10 minutes)**
 - a. Engage the class in a brief discussion of the actions taken by the New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association to secure the vote in New Jersey. Be sure to emphasize and identify the stand they took and the challenges they faced in their efforts to secure the right to vote.
 - b. As a culminating topic for discussion, have students revisit the essential questions and make predictions about how the actions taken by the NJWSA in New Jersey could have impacted voting rights across the United States, citing key evidence from the documents to support their claims.

“The Next President” Flyer (1915), “Campaign Activities” (1915), and “State Women Aiding Cause of Organized Suffragists” Article (1919)

DIRECTIONS

Read each of the documents carefully and answer the questions that follow. You must cite evidence from the text to support your response.



New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association, 1915, *On Account of Sex: The Struggle for Women's Suffrage in Middlesex County*, Rutgers University Libraries, Special Collections and University Archives, womensuffrage.libraries.rutgers.edu/items/show/420.

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CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

During the eight months which elapsed between the final passage of the Woman Suffrage Amendment Resolution in the Legislature and the Election, the New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association and its Two Hundred Branches throughout the State

- Maintained a State Headquarters in Plainfield and local Headquarters in twenty-two cities;
- Distributed 1,550,000 pieces of Literature;
- Distributed 200,000 “Votes for Women” Buttons;
- Sent one column of New Jersey Suffrage news a week to 200 weekly and two columns a week to 25 daily newspapers;
- Paid salary and expenses of one Field Organizer and the expenses of thirty Organizers and Speakers who either gave their time or whose salaries were paid by other States;
- Held over 2,500 outdoor and 250 indoor meetings;
- Supplied speakers for over 500 meetings of men’s fraternal and labor organizations, church clubs, etc.;
- Brought to the State such well-known speakers as Doctor Anna Howard Shaw, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Lieutenant-Governor W. Y. Morgan of Kansas, Mrs. Philip Snowden, Mrs. Jenny C. Law Hardy of Michigan, Mrs. Mary C. C. Bradford of Colorado, Mrs. George Bass, and Mrs. Antoinette Funk of Chicago, Frank Stephens of Delaware, Miss Lou Rogers, the well-known cartoonist, and Miss Florence Wattles of Indiana;
- Celebrated the Birthday of the Founder of the Association, Lucy Stone, on August 13th, by a banquet (at which the speakers were Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, Doctor Anna Howard Shaw, Mrs. Henry Garrison Villard, Miss Mary Garret Hay, Miss Alice Stone Blackwell, Judge Thomas A. Davis, Mrs. Richard Y. Fitzgerald and Mr. and Mrs. Everett Colby), an automobile parade with over a hundred decorated cars from ten counties, and exercises at the former home of Lucy Stone, in Orange, during which a memorial tablet was unveiled and addresses were made by Miss Alice Stone Blackwell, Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, and the Honorable John Franklin Fort; Suffragists from eighteen counties took part in this celebration;
- Conducted booths at all the County and State Fairs, at which were distributed 100,000 “Vote Yes” match books, 50,000 “Votes for Women” hat bands, thousands of “Votes for Women” buttons and pieces of suffrage literature;
- Circularized all the clergymen in the State with special literature;
- Conducted eight State and fourteen County Conferences of Workers;
- Sent out a monthly bulletin of reports and suggestions to two hundred branch organizations and fifty special workers;
- Conducted twenty-nine Schools for Watchers and Workers at the Polls, to which was largely due the fact that 1,657 of the 1,891 election districts in the State had women watchers at the polls; these Schools were planned and conducted by Mrs. F. H. Colvin, First Vice-President of the Association;
- Conducted auto tours with speakers, stopping for meetings in the principal towns, in Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Gloucester, Middlesex, Salem and Somerset Counties;
- Held during the last week of the campaign automobile parades covering Burlington, Hudson, Morris, Passaic and Union Counties and the City of Camden;
- Handled the getting in and sending out of its own election returns, in co-operation with the Associated Press, commenting on which the manager of the Election Department of the Associated Press said that they had never handled a political campaign where the returns came in better and few where they came in as well. By midnight complete returns were in from seventy per cent. of the State. This result was entirely due to the splendid co-operation of the County Chairmen and local workers throughout the State, who only knew one day in advance that this work would be required of them.

Campaign Statement of New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association: A Resume of Campaign Activities and an Analysis of the Vote on the Woman Suffrage Amendment in the State of New Jersey, October 19, 1915, 1915, Ann Lewis Women’s Suffrage Collection, lewissuffragecollection.omeka.net/items/show/1259.

“The Next President” Flyer (1915), “Campaign Activities” (1915), and “State Women Aiding Cause of Organized Suffragists” Article (1919)

State Women Aiding Cause of Organized Suffragists

Active work for ratification of the Federal Woman Suffrage Amendment by the Legislature of New Jersey will not be confined to the organized suffragists. Many of the other prominent women's organizations of the State have decided to join forces with the New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association.

The first meeting of the new Committee will be held at 2 o'clock on the afternoon of Tuesday, July 15th, at The Washington, Broad street and Washington Park, Newark, and the following organizations are uniting in the call for this meeting: The State Federation of Women's Clubs, the N. J., Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, the W. C. T. U. and the New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, President of the National Woman Suffrage Association will make the principal address at the Newark meeting. A representative of each of the cooperating organizations will also speak. The committee will organize and appoint its working sub-committee.

Among the prominent women who will be members of the committee are Mrs. John R. Schermerhorn, President of the Federation; the Rev. Mrs. Florence Randolph, President of the Colored Women's Federation; Miss Esther Elfreth, President of the W. C. T. U.; Mrs. E. F. Feickert, President of the Suffrage Association; Mrs. Beatrice Stern, Matawan; Mrs. Wm. H. Peters, Rutherford; Mrs. John J. White and Mrs. Gardner Pinkitt, Atlantic City; Mrs. Everett Colby and Mrs. Philip McKim Garrison, West Orange; Mrs. H. Otto Wittpenn, Mrs. Daniel Van Winkle, Mrs. Thomas G. Haight, and Miss Bessie Pope, Jersey City; Mrs. A. Haines Lippincott, Camden; Mrs. Charles S. Maddock, Jr., and Mrs. Charles A. Woodruff, Trenton; Mrs. George M. LaMonte, Bound Brook; Mrs. I. H. Demarest, Closter; Mrs. Van Curtis Keyport; Mrs. Ida

Perth Amboy (N.J.) Evening News, July 11, 1919, p. 6, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*
(Library of Congress, chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85035720/1919-07-11/ed-2/)

The New Jersey Woman Suffrage Documents

CRITICAL THINKING

Use all three documents to respond to the following:

“The Next President” Flyer (1915)

What is the key argument for women’s suffrage in this document?

Cite textual evidence to support your answer.

“Campaign Activities” Report (1915)

Which of the listed “Campaign Activities” would have the greatest impact on accomplishing the suffragists’ goal?

Cite textual evidence to support your answer.

“State Women Aiding Cause of Organized Suffragists” Article (1919)

Who are the women of New Jersey fighting in support of women’s suffrage?

Cite textual evidence to support your answer.

Using all three New Jersey documents provided, write a paragraph that identifies and describes three key actions taken by the women of New Jersey to secure their right to vote. Cite evidence from the documents to support your response.