

Enrolled

Senate Concurrent Resolution
Number 5

By Tucker of the Senate
Hodges of the House

A. Resolution

Providing for the submission of a proposition
to amend the Constitution enfranchising women,
defining the qualifications of electors, and
providing for an election thereon.

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives
concurring therein:

Section 1. The following amendment to Section 1 of
article 3 of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma is hereby proposed.
The Secretary of State is hereby authorized and directed to submit
said amendment herein proposed to the people for their approval
or rejection, as provided by law, at the general election to be held
on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1918, said
proposed amendment being as follows, to-wit:

Article III. Suffrage

Section 1. Qualified electors of this State shall be citizens of
of the United States, citizens of the State, including persons of Indian
descent, (native of the United States,) who are over the age of twenty-one
years and who have resided in the State one year, in the county
six months, and in the election precinct thirty days next preceding
the election at which such elector offers to vote: Provided, that no
person adjudged guilty of a felony, subject to such exceptions as the legislature may
prescribe, nor any person kept in a poor-house at public expense, except Federal,
Confederate, and Spanish-American ex-soldiers or sailors, nor any person in a public
prison, nor any idiot or lunatic, shall be entitled to register and vote.

Adopted by the Senate February 1, 1917

M. G. Wright
President of the Senate

Enrolled by the Secretary

Adopted by the House of Representatives, March 16th, 1917.
Paul Mcabitt

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved this 27th day of March 1917

H. L. Williams,
Governor of the State of Oklahoma

VOTES FOR WOMEN

Oklahoma Woman Suffrage Association

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HEADQUARTERS, ROOM 423, LEE-HUCKINS

OKLAHOMA CITY, 1918.

To the Voters of Oklahoma:

The women of Oklahoma ask the men of our State to support with their votes the petition for an amendment to the Constitution, striking out the word "male" in the clause defining the qualifications for voting.

We ask that women be allowed to vote on equal terms with men because women need the ballot equally with men for the protection of their interests, and because it is a conceded fact that the interest of any class of people can be better protected when possessing power to protect itself. This is the true application of that fundamental principle of our government "that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed."

We women of Oklahoma ask our fathers, brothers, husbands and sons to consider by what right they vote, and where they secured the power to determine whether a woman shall be clothed with the dignity and responsibility of citizenship which they enjoy, or whether her opinions shall remain, to the dishonor of the state, classed baneful with those of criminals, useless with those of idiots and the insane, and irresponsible with those of minors.

A woman's title to vote is identical with a man's title to vote. Men in the United States vote for the simple reason that they live

under a form of government which declares taxation without representation to be tyranny, and that power is derived by consent of the people. In such a government the ballot becomes the symbol through which these principles are expressed. Ask yourselves two questions,- Are women taxed? and are women governed? and it becomes apparent that the woman's title to vote in our boasted self-government is identical with that of men. Then, logically, how can any man cast an honest vote to the contrary, and proclaim faith and allegiance to the American principles of government?

We ask your vote in favor of conferring citizenship on the women of our State, since we believe the nation is imperiled because of the trend of all legislation towards commercialism, which necessarily results from the opinions of men alone crystalizing into law. Many evils of vital interest to the life of the nation are demanding that women be granted power to co-operate with me for the best protection of the home and child,-not the least of which questions are those of child-slavery and white slave traffic.

We beg to call your attention to the great changes brought about through inventions. Under a condition termed "*modern industrialism*" and which has invaded the woman's sphere, "the home", the work of women in the home has been transferred to the mills, factories, stores and offices. So, in turn, the home commodities formerly made under the watchful supervision of the women in the home, are returned from the marts of the world, and the only safeguard from disease and death rests upon the conscientious responsibility of the official whose duty it is to care for the public's interest. It would seem, therefore, self-evident that if women are to be able to protect themselves, and conserve the best interests of the home, they must

be accorded the ballot to help choose these officials.

Recognizing the ballot as the only effective weapon of our day and generation for the protection of the women of all classes, we submit a classified list of the women in Oklahoma who need the ballot, and a few reasons why they need it.

Oklahoma women want to vote, because

- 1: **WOMEN ARE CITIZENS**, and they need the ballot to accomplish their civic duties.
 - 2: **WORKING WOMEN**, need the ballot to enforce thro a **CONSTITUENCY**, their demands for shorter working hours, equal pay for equal work, better sanitary conditions to work under, safe-guarded machinery, etc.
 - 3: **HOMEMAKERS**, need the ballot in order to influence the outside conditions which today control the home, such as Boards of Health, Boards of Education, the food supply, the water rates; in short, to influence municipal politics whose activities deal almost exclusively with the "woman"s sphere."
- MOTHERS**, need the ballot in order to control moral conditions, and wage effective war upon the powers of evil which revel in the debauching of youth.
- TEACHERS**, need the ballot to fit them to teach the ideals of citizenship. The state needs their trained intelligence, because they represent the most valuable public officials in the employ of the State-"State Mothers", as they have been justly termed.
- PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS WOMEN**, need the ballot to secure for themselves fair opportunities in their respective callings.
- THE WOMAN ON THE FARM**, needs the vote because she is interested in good roads, good schools, tax levies, and the best conditions for the rural district. She would double the farmer vote. Two good votes where but one vote now exists.
- TAX PAYING WOMEN**, need the ballot to protect their property interests.
- ALL WOMEN**, need to vote for the sake of their own self-respect, and in order to command the respect of others. Disfranchisement means degradation, and no juggling with words nor the uttering of the usual platitudes can alter this interpretation.
- ALL MEN**, need to confer the ballot on women today to justify their advocacy for a "square deal."Therefore, men of Oklahoma, in the interest of according the women of our state a

"square deal", we ask you to arm them equally with yourselves with the weapon of civilization, the Ballot, and together let us wage war for human betterment, and vindicate our national principles by giving to the State of Oklahoma a "government of the people, by the people and for the people," for women are people.

We close this earnest appeal for your vote by calling to your attention the conclusion of that earnest student, philosopher and writer, Charles Kingsley, who said : "One principal cause of the failure of so many magnificent schemes, social, political, religious, which have followed each other, age after age, has been this: that in almost every case they have ignored the rights and powers of one-half the human race, namely, women."

Respectfully submitted,

Oklahoma Woman Suffrage Association.