Miss Feely

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WTP Prepared Statement Unit 10

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**How did women gain the right to vote?**

Women began the national fight to gain the right to vote at a New York Convention in 1848. Sadly, it would take over 130 years for women to vote legally in the United States. In 1920, the 19th Amendment was added to the Constitution. It stated that women were allowed the right to vote in all elections.

In 1848, over 200 women meet in New York to discuss “social, civil, and religious condition and rights of women.” This was the first meeting where women started to stand up for their right to be heard from the government. Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton argued that women should have the same rights as men. Women began to march in parades, picket at the White House, and some even tried to go to the polls and vote. Susan B. Anthony voted illegally in 1872. She was arrested and refused to pay the $100 fine and wasn’t forced to by the judge. After the Civil War, women supported African Americans in their fight to being treated equally. This ultimately lead to the addition of the 15th Amendment. There were some men that supported women voting, including Professor Edward H. Griggs. He said, “The ballot is an educator, and women will become more practical and more wise in using it.” Professor Griggs realized how important it was for women to gain the right to vote.

Even though it is fair and right that those who must obey the laws should have a voice in making them, women were the largest group of citizens that were denied the right to vote. For many decades, the woman’s place was to work in the home, but they couldn’t voice their opinion. Rarely did women continue to get an education, so they were thought of as not being smart enough to make an informed decision. Since they only worked in and around the home, men felt the government decisions wouldn’t impact a woman. This belief made it so women weren’t allowed to have a voice in the communities.

After the addition of the 19th Amendment, women have been viewed about in a different light. Professor Edward H. Griggs said, “The ballot is an educator, and women will become more practical and more wise in using it.”