

# Women Who Fought for the Vote

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Susan B. Anthony, Frances Willard and other members of the International Council of Women. Rice/Library of Congress/Corbis/VCG via Getty Images

In 1920, almost 100 years ago, American women voted for the very first time for president. Before then, no woman in the United States had the right to vote for president. Only men could vote.

Women had been fighting to win the vote for almost 100 years. The famous leaders of this fight are listed below.

## **Susan B. Anthony, 1820-1906**

Susan B. Anthony is a famous leader in women's rights.

Anthony discovered that few people in the government cared about women's problems. She realized it was because women could not vote. The people in government needed votes to get and keep their jobs. Since women did not vote, they did not matter.

Anthony decided that women needed to win the right to vote. Only then would the government care about them.

Anthony later became the president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA). Fighters for suffrage were called suffragists. "Suffrage" is the right to vote.

**Alice Paul, 1885-1977**

Alice Paul was the leader of the boldest group of suffragists. She did anything it took to win the vote.

After becoming a suffragist, Paul first joined NAWSA. In 1913, she helped plan a huge suffrage parade.

Paul was too bold for some in NAWSA. In 1914, she left NAWSA. She then started her own group, the National Woman's Party (NWP).

The NWP specialized in bold protests. For example, they camped out in front of the White House for seven months.

Paul and others were arrested for their White House protest. Their brave stand won many people to their side.

In 1918, President Wilson put forward a new law. This law gave women the right to vote. The law passed in 1920.

**Elizabeth Cady Stanton, 1815-1902**

Elizabeth Cady Stanton was an early fighter for women's rights. In 1848, she helped put together the first women's rights meeting. The meeting was held in Seneca Falls, New York.

Around 240 men and women attended. They talked about the rights of women.

One hundred people signed a declaration similar to the Declaration of Independence. It was called the Declaration of Sentiments. It said that women should have the same rights as men.

This important meeting began the long fight for women's suffrage.

**Lucy Stone, 1818-1893**

Lucy Stone was an abolitionist and women's rights leader. An abolitionist is a person who wants to end slavery. She is best known for refusing to change her last name when she got married. Her husband was the abolitionist Henry Blackwell.

Stone became a speaker for the American Anti-Slavery Society.

In 1871, Stone and Blackwell started a feminist newspaper The Woman's Journal. Stone died in 1893. The paper ran until 1931.

**Ida B. Wells, 1862-1931**

Ida B. Wells is best known as a fighter for African-American rights. She also fought for women's rights.

In 1913, Wells was preparing to join the suffrage parade held on the day Wilson became president. She was asked not to come. Some of the white women had refused to march alongside blacks.

Wells joined the march anyway. She continued to fight for civil rights for all until her death in 1931.