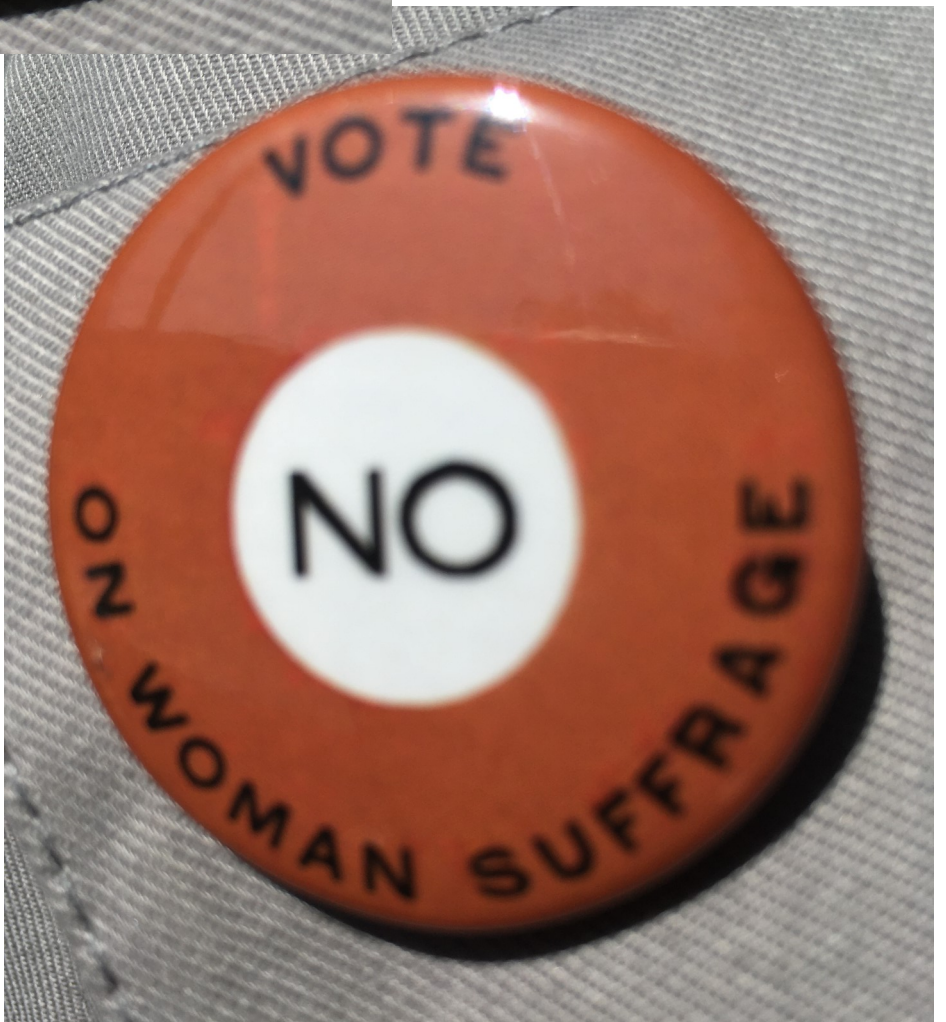


# **DEBATE**

**Outside of civics class,  
students see arguments  
for and against women's  
rights in many forms of  
media.**





"Anxious to Vote: Students, Workers & the Fight For Women's Suffrage" • Stonehurst • Waltham Public Schools • Mass Humanities

# **DEBATE**

# A REASON A DAY WHY WOMEN SHOULD NOT VOTE

*Today: Because the Anti-Man Position of the Suffragists Would Weaken Woman's Power to Influence Public Opinion.*

By EVELYN SEARS.

At various suffrage meetings this Winter the statement has been made that women are so different from men it is impossible for men to represent them. Therefore, woman must have the vote.

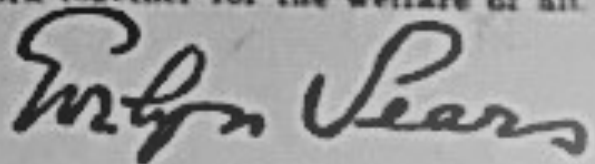
Now one does not vote for measures, but for men, so that with the vote she would still be unrepresented. Accordingly, to obtain what she wants it would seem that woman must vote for women to represent her.

Is Massachusetts prepared for a government by women? For that is where the suffragist argument lands us! The suffragist position is an antiman position. Let the men realize this in time!

Now the antisuffragist knows that the laws are not perfect, and that progress

comes slowly; but she believes that the men are striving for human betterment and she wants to help them, instead of working against them.

She realizes that the greatest power for good in America, a power far greater than the ballot, is the force of public opinion. For the arousing of that force the present position of woman is unrivaled. Let the men make and administer the laws, backed by the nonpartisan strength of the women, who should work together for the welfare of all.



Another Reason Will Be Printed  
Tomorrow.

**Waltham's Evelyn Sears was a  
leader in the powerful  
anti-suffrage movement  
in Massachusetts**

*Image: Boston Globe, April 4, 1913.*



## IT IS A MISTAKE

XII. To declare that the majority of women do not want the vote. Very few women have expressed themselves as against equal suffrage; not nearly so many as have declared in favor of it. The largest body of organized women in the country, the **General Federation of Women's Clubs**, in their convention in Chicago, June, 1914, went on record overwhelmingly in favor of equal suffrage. **Many women are indifferent simply because they are uninformed on the subject. Every great change in our history, from the American Revolution down, has been led by minorities. If every step of progress in the condition of women or the State waited until the majority clamored for it, it would never be taken.**

XIII. To believe that women are represented by men. True democracy demands that every normal man or woman shall have a voice in the Government which both must obey. There is only one way that he or she can have a voice in the Government,—by casting his or her **OWN VOTE**. Until every normal woman who is a citizen in this country casts her own vote **THE UNITED STATE IS NOT A DEMOCRACY**.

Women vote in Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, Washington, California, Oregon, Arizona, Kansas, Illinois and Alaska. Which State next?

## COMMON MISTAKES ABOUT SUFFRAGE

### IT IS A MISTAKE

I. To confuse suffrage with socialism. Socialists include suffrage in their platform; but many suffragists do not believe in socialism.

II. To think that suffragists in this country will ever become militant. The few militant steps that have been taken in this country are to be attributed to those who oppose the extension of the vote to women.

III. To believe that suffrage is at all like Feminism. No one who understands what suffrage means confuses it with so-called Feminism, except on purpose.

IV. To reason that women cannot go to war, and therefore should not have the vote, for ministers, and male cripples and invalids vote, yet do not qualify to fight.

V. To say that suffragists do not make good wives and mothers, for their chief reason for wishing to have the vote is that they may become better wives and mothers. The testimony of the men from equal suffrage States is that the home gains by the intelligent participation of mothers in civic affairs.



## DEBATE

**Sadly, some  
suffragists  
compromised their  
own values and  
beliefs to win over  
anti-suffragists.**

Sophia Smith Collection, Smith College

### IT IS A MISTAKE

- VI. To argue that voting would interfere with woman's business in the home. The vote does not interfere with man's business in the store or factory. It takes less time to vote than go to market.
- VII. To say that suffragists lead the working girl to believe that the possession of the vote will raise her wages. What they do tell her is that all women need this very effective implement to make and enforce better laws for all women and children.
- VIII. To say that the bad women in the suffrage States vote to any extent. No one who takes the trouble to look up statistics on this point will ever fall into this error.
- IX. To urge that it would double the foreign and ignorant vote. There are 12 times as many native born women in this country as foreign born; one-third more girls than boys attend the high schools.
- X. To claim that women by indirect influence can change or make laws. Statistics show that in the suffrage States women have quickly made laws that all good women want, whereas it takes about forty years to make such laws in non-suffrage States.
- XI. To say that women will not vote. Women do vote in suffrage States in the same proportion as men.





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# **DEBATE**



# Why the Working Woman Needs the Vote

By MRS. MARY KENNEY O'SULLIVAN

Every year more and more women are going into industry. Why is this?

1. **COST OF LIVING** is rising, and in many families the woman's wages are needed to eke out the family income.
2. **THE STANDARD OF LIVING** is rising, and workingmen's families demand better conditions, and **MUST** have a larger income to meet them.
3. Women living in cities can no longer help sustain the family by farm work, dairy work, or by spinning and weaving; therefore their only ways of helping to provide for the family are

**EITHER** to take work home, which in most cases produces the evil results of sweat-shop work with poor conditions of work and poorer pay;

**OR** to go out to work in factory or shop.

Now, **IS** the woman's work a help to the family in the long run?

**NOT SO LONG AS WOMEN ARE CHEAP LABOR.**

Every union man knows how dangerous and harmful is the competition of child labor; it is dangerous **BECAUSE IT IS CHEAP**, and cuts down the man's wages.

Women's labor, **AS LONG AS IT IS CHEAP**, is just as dangerous, and for just the same reason. When women organize and vote they will get **EQUAL PAY** for **EQUAL WORK**, and they will no longer compete unfairly with men. Then men's wages will improve, and, though fewer women will be employed at the higher wages, this will not be a hardship, because the increase in the man's wages will give the family the large income needed, without its being necessary for so many women to work outside the home.

Woman suffrage has been endorsed not only by the American Federation of Labor, but also by the State Federations of Labor of California, Connecti-

**Workers trust fellow workers  
like labor leader  
Mary Kenney O’Sullivan  
to look out for their  
best interests.**

*Image: [1915-1917] Ann Lewis Women’s Suffrage Collection.  
From the collection of Ann Lewis and Mike Sponder.*



American politics and redeem the future  
of the great Republic. H. B. B.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE MEANS PEACE.

The American Peace Society held its  
63d annual meeting in Huntington Hall,  
Boston, on May 18. President Francis A.  
Walker, Edward Everett Hale and Lyman  
Abbott were the speakers. The subject  
was "International Arbitration." The  
call was signed by Robert Treat Paine as  
president. Strange to say, neither the  
cause nor the cure of the curse of War was  
so much as named.

Men are the belligerent sex. Every-  
where throughout nature the male animal  
is the fighting animal. Consequently, a  
political society of men alone, from which  
women are excluded, cannot keep the  
peace. Every class that votes makes  
itself felt in the Government. Women  
are the mothers of men. They have  
periled their lives in giving them birth,  
and have spent years of toil in rearing  
them to manhood. Therefore they are  
more keenly aware of the cost and value  
of human life. Women, therefore, when  
enfranchised, will, as a rule, vote against  
war and in favor of arbitration. Man suf-  
frage means war; impartial suffrage irre-  
spective of sex is the only guarantee of  
peace.

Hon. Robert Treat Paine, the president  
of the American Peace Society, has re-  
cently announced his conversion to woman  
suffrage. We hope that his society will  
soon grow to see that women as voters  
will become the peacemakers of the world.

H. B. B.

**Women won over  
influential men in private  
conversations about  
shared causes such as  
world peace.**

Pro-suffrage women like Helen Keller and Robert Treat Paine's daughter Ethel were dedicated pacifists.

*Image: Women's Journal, May 16, 1896, p. 156  
Schlesinger Library., Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University*