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The Nineteenth Amendment Women Won the Right to Vote

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Word Count: 748 The American woman's suffrage movement officially started in 1848, when women gathered at a convention in Seneca Falls, New York. It was led by Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and other women's rights pioneers. The woman suffrage movement started because

women wanted to change certain laws that were unfair to them. Unfortunately, people did not want to listen to them because they were “women”, or because they were “not allowed certain rights that the men were”. Women realized that in order for them to change anything, they needed to win the right to vote. After that, two organizations were built, the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), and the National Woman’s Party (NWP). The NAWSA worked to help women in the individual states, while the NWP took more drastic actions, including standing outside the White House with signs, to persuade President Wilson and Congress to pass a woman suffrage amendment. In 1920, 72 years later, Congress had finally passed a woman suffrage amendment. This was a huge achievement for all the women that had been fighting hard and long. Voting is important, not to just be able to change laws, but also to choose leaders and representatives who are going to care about everyone’s wants and needs.

It is very important for all people to vote. Voting is the people's chance to choose leaders and other representatives who will do things that are important to them. One of the reasons people don't vote is because they don't think their vote matters. Except it actually does. An election can be decided by just one vote, and if someone doesn't vote, then the election can take a very different turn.

The voting rate has continued to decline over the years. The question is why do some people choose not to vote, even though they know it's important? Over the last four decades the midterms have been substantially low. According to, *On The Sidelines Of Democracy: Exploring Why So Many Americans Don't Vote*, In 2016, which was a presidential election year, the voter turnout was only 42% to 74% depending on the state. The average was 59% nationwide. That is crazy! There are some people who want to vote but can't because of a felony

conviction. But even then, there are still a bunch of people who are able to vote but don't. Some say they are too busy, they don't like their choices, or they don't think their vote matters. There are also many people who just don't feel that they know enough to vote. This mainly happens in younger voters. Since seniors are the ones who mainly vote, the things they care about, like Medicare, are voted on; since the younger voters barely vote, the things they care about, like student debt, are not given another thought by politicians. Now that we know what some of the problems are, the question is how can we fix them?

There are so many ideas to encourage and help people to vote. There could be sponsors, for each area, who can give food, coupons, or gift cards, to people after they vote. It would not only make people want to vote next time, but there would be national exposure for the businesses. Another thing people could do is make an art competition out of the voting booths. Instead of the booths being pretty plain, people could submit different designs of art, that the county or state could vote on. That way when people go to vote, they can also look at all the different art pieces. One of the problems of why people don't want to vote is because they don't feel that their vote matters. To make people feel like it does, there could be a cool light, sound, or graphic when they turn their ballot in, and to make it extra special, there could be different things that happen for 10 or 20 people, and then it starts over. Another idea is to turn election day into a holiday, and allow everyone time off of work. This way they would have the time to vote, and they don't have to go to work for the rest of the day.

It's true that there are a lot of reasons why people choose not to vote, but there are also a lot of ideas to encourage and help them to vote. People just

need an opportunity to learn about voting and how it works, and the motivation to vote.

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