



# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE—IDAHO 1896

Support for the enfranchisement of women had steadily grown within Idaho for decades. On November 3, 1896, voters had the opportunity to cast their ballots not only for the next president and governor, but also to amend the Idaho Constitution, giving women the right to vote. The amendment won a clear majority, but was appealed to the Idaho Supreme Court on a technical issue. On December 11, 1896, the justices ruled unanimously in favor of the amendment. Idaho became the fourth state to grant women unrestricted voting rights.

After the 18,408 votes cast for "Amendment No. 1 (Women's Suffrage)" were counted, those in favor numbered 12,126 while 6,282 were opposed. The amendment held the popular vote in all but Custer County. Note that the Certified Abstract of Votes below originally had the vote tally incorrect; someone entered the correct vote totals in the lower right corner of the document, which was signed by Governor William J. McConnell, State Auditor; Frank C. Ramsay, Attorney General George M. Parsons and Secretary of State I. W. Garrett on November 27, 1896.

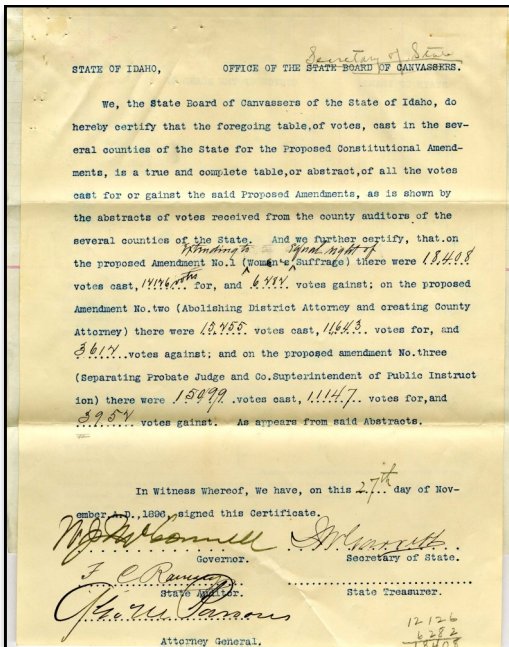
ABSTRACT OF VOTES,  
Cast for Constitutional Amendments at the General Election November 3, 1896.

County.

No. of Precincts

Name of Precinct	AMEND. NO. 1 Women's Suffrage		AMEND. NO. 2 Abolish Dist. Attorney		AMEND. NO. 3 Separate Probate Judge	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
1. Alta	1833	761	1837	189	1897	207
2. Blaine	606	204	526	198	499	246
3. Eagle Lake	599	213	441	77	448	38
4. Bingham	776	266	882	299	866	157
5. Bluff	397	254	396	187	366	138
6. Bliss	403	283	372	281	306	211
7. Carmon	429	317	437	284	406	247
8. Coeur	465	37	199	149	250	117
9. Crocker	161	176	80	262	79	253
10. Elmore	253	164	270	163	257	
11. Fremont	986	299	863	152	886	209
12. Idaho	497	266	529	181	466	197
13. Kootenai	628	283	877	172	719	213
14. Latah	1117	534	1177	346	1237	326
15. Lemhi	469	276	482	126	468	146
16. Madison	204	71	219	46	213	44
17. Minner	487	261	487	231	399	237
18. Owyhee	841	263	716	107	616	176
19. Power	395	268	399	111	359	207
20. Shoshone	625	276	670	276	628	378
21. Teton	380	206	334	266	268	230
22. Washington	200	111	211	11	199	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12126</b>	<b>6282</b>				

Votes cast for Amendment No. 1  
Women's Suffrage



Certified Abstract of Votes



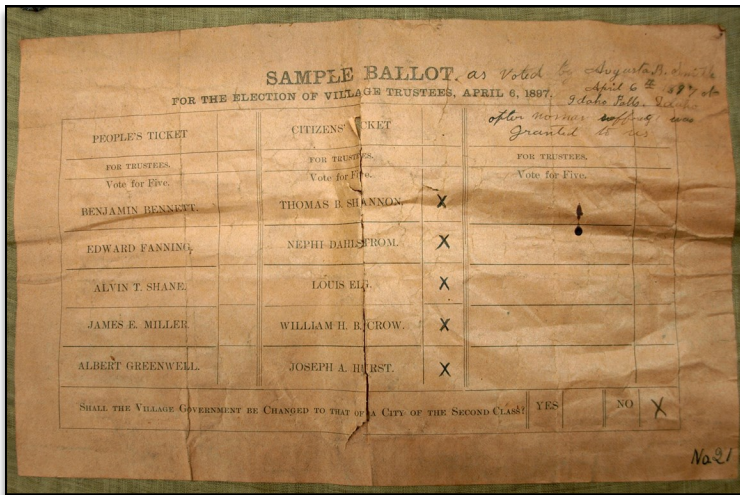
Lewiston Suffrage Parade 1880s



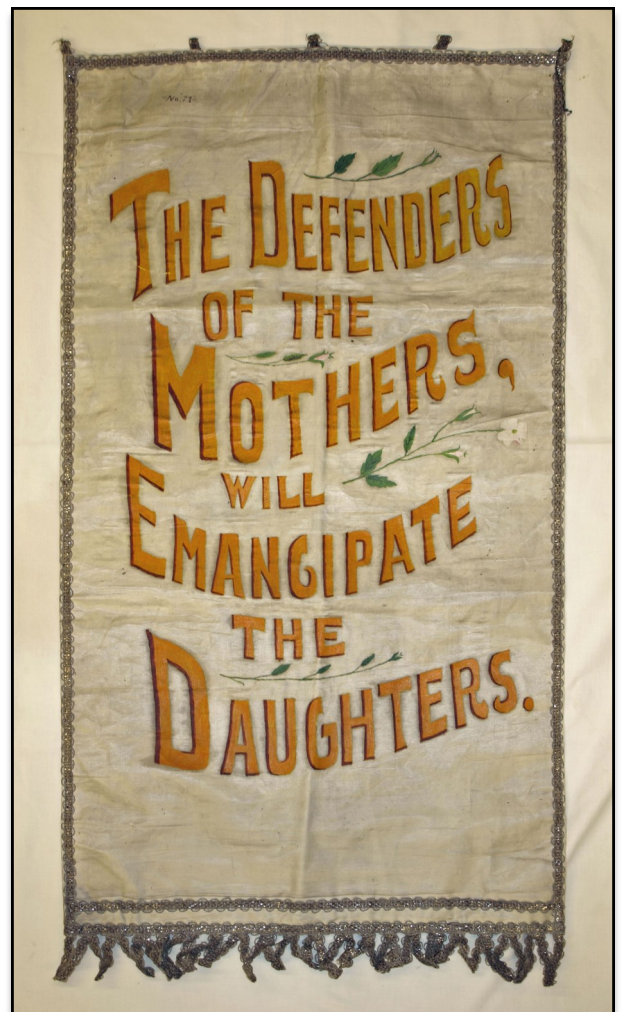
## WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE—IDAHO 1896

The Idaho Falls Equal Suffrage Club used this hand-painted banner from 1895 through 1897. On the back of the banner is a sample ballot, which contains a handwritten inscription that reads, "As voted by Augusta B. Smith April 6th 1897 after woman's suffrage was granted to us."

The silk banner was donated to the Idaho State Historical Society in 1907 by the Columbian Club, a civic and philanthropic women's organization that supported many family-related causes.



Suffrage Banner 1896—obverse



Suffrage Banner 1896