

Change on the Horizon

North Carolina

1913

Gertrude Weil revived the suffrage movement in North Carolina by forming the North Carolina Equal Suffrage League.

1915

Legislature in North Carolina voted against a bill granting women suffrage. Representatives from agricultural counties with the largest African American populations led the opposition. There was concern that if women voted then there would be pressure to reverse local laws that prevented African American men from voting.

1914

In Hickory, Mrs. E. B. Cline, a local suffrage leader, complained in a letter to the State President of the Equal Suffrage Association of North Carolina stating that the opposition in her hometown was based on traditional views of women's roles in the home.

1917

The Lenorian, a publication at Lenoir College, now Lenoir Rhyne University, reported a debate by the Chrestonian Literary Society, an all male society. They decided in favor of women's suffrage.

United States

1900

Every state had passed legislation granting married women the right to keep their own wages and own property in their name.

In the early 1900s, the suffrage movement started using media and publicity tactics in their campaign. The use of color played an important role in defining the movement. White and gold were used by all branches of the suffrage movement, which consisted of both militant and mainstream. In the parades, most of the participants wore white which left an impression because it contrasted against men who wore dark suits in the crowds along the parade routes.

1913

Suffrage Parade in Washington, D.C. made front page news across the country.



Photo Courtesy of the League of Women Voters

1915

40,000 women march in New York City carrying placards with the names of the states they represent.



A transcontinental tour gathered over half a million signatures for a petition for women's suffrage to bring to Congress.

1910



First Suffrage Parade in New York City.

1912

20,000 women marched in a Suffrage Parade in New York City.

1914

National Federation of Women's Clubs, which included over 2 million women members across the US, formally endorse the suffrage campaign.

1916

Jeannette Rankin was the first woman to be elected to the US House of Representatives from Montana.

1917

New York grants women's suffrage and was the only state in the northeast United States to do so.

Opposition in North Carolina

The anti-suffrage movement derived its strongest support from:

- Politicians eager to retain the control they obtained after Reconstruction.
- The textile mill industry relied on child labor, which resulted in them fearing how women's votes could impact this.
- Railroad officials worried that women would target them in the progressive attack on corruption in big business.

North Carolina had the **only** southern **anti-suffrage** journal, the **State Defense**, but it was **only published four times** before the ratification **battle ended**.