**Against Women Suffrage**

**Because** women already have the municipal vote, and are eligible for membership of most local authorities. These bodies deal with questions of housing, education, care of children, workhouses and so forth, all of which are peculiarly within a woman's sphere. Parliament, however, has to deal mainly with the administration of a vast Empire, the maintenance of the Army and Navy, and with questions of peace and war, which lie outside the legitimate sphere of woman's influence.

**Because** all government rests ultimately on force, to which women, owing to physical, moral and social reasons, are not capable of con­tributing.

**Because** women are not capable of full citizenship, for the simple reason that they are not available for purposes of national and Imperial defence. All government rests ultimately on force, to which women, owing to physical, moral and social reasons, are not capable of contributing.

**Because** there is little doubt that the vast majority of women have no desire for the vote.

**Because** the acquirement of the Parliamentary vote would logically involve admission to Parliament itself, and to all Government offices. It is scarcely possible to imagine a woman being Minister for War, and yet the principles of the Suffragettes involve that and many similar absurdities.

**Because** the United Kingdom is not an isolated state, but the administrative and governing centre of a system of colonies and also of dependencies. The effect of introducing a large female ele­ment into the Imperial electorate would undoubtedly be to weaken the centre of power in the eyes of these dependent millions.

**Because** past legislation in Parliament shows that the interests of women are perfectly safe in the hands of men.

**Because** Woman Suffrage is based on the idea of the equality of the sexes, and tends to establish those competitive relations which will destroy chivalrous consideration.

**Because** women have at present a vast indirect influence through their menfolk on the politics of this country.

**Because** the physical nature of women unfits them for direct com­petition with men.

Grace Saxon Mills, writing in the years before 1914



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| Argument Against Women's Suffrage, 1911 **Prepared by J. B. Sanford, Chairmen of Democratic Caucus** | |
| |  | | --- | | [**<-- Go Back**](http://www.learncalifornia.org/doc.asp?id=1644) | | ARGUMENT AGAINST SENATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 8  Suffrage is not a right. It is a privilege that may or may not be granted. Politics is no place for a women consequently the privilege should not be granted to her.  The mother's influence is needed in the home. She can do little good by gadding the streets and neglecting her children. Let her teach her daughters that modesty, patience, and gentleness are the charms of a women. Let her teach her sons that an honest conscience is every man's first political law; that no splendor can rob him nor no force justify the surrender of the simplest right of a free and independent citizen. The mothers of this country can shape the destinies of the nation by keeping in their places and attending to those duties that God Almighty intended for them. The kindly, gentle influence of the mother in the home and the dignified influence of the teacher in the school will far outweigh all the influence of all the mannish female politicians on earth.  The courageous, chivalrous, and manly men and the womanly women, the real mothers and home builders of the country, are opposed to this innovation in American political life. There was a bill (the Sanford bill) before the last legislature which proposed to leave the equal suffrage question to women to decide first before the men should vote on it. This bill was defeated by the suffragettes because they knew that the women would vote down the amendment by a vote of ten to one.  The men are able to run the government and take care of the women. Do women have to vote in order to receive the protection of man? Why, men have gone to war, endured every privation and death itself in defense of woman. To man, woman is the dearest creature on earth, and there is no extreme to which he would not go for his mother or sister. By keeping woman in her exalted position man can be induced to do more for her than he could by having her mix up in affairs that will cause him to lose respect and regard for her. Woman does not have to vote to secure her rights. Man will go to any extreme to protect and elevate her now. As long as woman is woman and keeps her place she will get more protection and more consideration than man gets. When she abdicates her throne she throws down the scepter of her power and loses her influence.  Woman suffrage has been proven a failure in states that have tried it. It is wrong. California should profit by the mistakes of other states. Not one reform has equal suffrage effected. On the contrary, statistics go to show that in most equal suffrage states, Colorado particularly, that divorces have greatly increased since the adoption of the equal suffrage amendment, showing that it has been a home destroyer. Crime has also increased due to lack of the mothers in the home.  Woman is woman. She can not unsex herself or change her sphere. Let her be content with her lot and perform those high duties intended for her by the Great Creator, and she will accomplish far more in governmental affairs that she can ever accomplish by mixing up in the dirty pool of politics. Keep the home pure and all will be well with the Republic. Let not the sanctity of the home be invaded by every little politician that may be running up and down the highway for office. Let the manly men and the womanly women defeat this amendment and keep woman where she belongs in order that she may retain the respect of all mankind.   J. B. Sanford, Senator  4th District.  *Received by Secretary of State Frank Jordan on June 26th, 1911, for publication as part of a voters' information manual. Document is currently filed in the California State Archives under: Secretary of State Elections Papers, 1911 Special Election.* |

ANTI-WOMAN SUFFRAGE. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DON’T FAIL TO READ THIS.

       At the election to be held November 7th, an amendment to the State Constitution conferring the right of suffrage upon women, will be voted on. The attitude of the press leaves those not in favor of the amendment no other way of reaching the people, except by a general distribution of these circulars, which we hope will have the effect of calling the attention of voters to the dangerous consequences of this measure to society, home and government and that he will not fail to put an X against the words on his ballot--

EQUAL SUFFRAGE NOT APPROVED.

       History does not show a single instance in which woman suffrage has improved society or government; on the contrary, the municipal affairs of towns in Kansas where women have voted and *were elected to office*, are in worse shape than ever before.

       After a trial of twenty-four years in Wyoming, it is conceeded that it has failed to bring about reforms of any kind, but has resulted in engaging women in the very laudable work of packing caucuses, primaries and conventions-in lowering women to the depths of all that low politics imply.

       Utah furnishes us with the most striking example of what *women cannot do*. There the right to vote was early conferred upon women by the territorial assembly and if there ever was a magnificent opportunity offered women to assert herself at the ballot--it was there. But instead of abolishing polygamy or lending her influence in that direction, she became a powerful agency in upholding that evil and Congress, after repeated efforts to crush it, found that it could only be done by abolishing Woman Suffrage, which was accordingly done by the Edmund’s Act of 1887[[A](http://womhist.alexanderstreet.com/colosuff/doc19.htm#a)]. Polygamy is now a thing of the past.

       The great cry of our female agitators, “Taxation without representation,” may be a very good argument if rightly applied, but as the percentage of women paying taxes is much smaller than that of men, and as there are 100 women who pay no taxes where there is one woman who does, we utterly fail to see how equal suffrage will increase the representation of tax paying women. In fact the result will be exactly the reverse. It is such women as Mrs. Lease[[B](http://womhist.alexanderstreet.com/colosuff/doc19.htm#b)], Helen Gauger[[C](http://womhist.alexanderstreet.com/colosuff/doc19.htm#c)], Susan B. Anthony and Miss Willard who are making all this clamor for the ballot. Most of these women have no children and therefore few family ties to keep them at home. In the absence of woman’s proper occupations, they run the country over, reviling everything in general and men in particular, and such women as these are the ones who would rule under a regime of woman suffrage.

       Young man, if you don’t want a female lawyer, doctor or politician for a wife, but would prefer a woman who will be a good companion, home maker, wife and mother, than vote and induce all your friends to vote against EQUAL SUFFRAGE.

       This is a fight for our homes, for our families and for our personal liberties. We appeal to all fair minded voters to consider that should this amendment be adopted, only a few notoriety seeking women will be benefitted, while a great majority of citizens will be injured. The already weakened credit of our State will sink lower, for capital will not invest a dollar in our commonwealth, if a new element is thrust forward to make or unmake laws which would affect its security.

*Do not depend upon others to cast their votes against this innocent looking but dangerous experiment, but see that your vote is cast against it.* After reading this circular, please hand it to some friend. We want every voter to be made aware that this measure will come up, and we hope that every liberal minded man will oppose same by placing his X against the line

EQUAL SUFFRAGE NOT APPROVED.

http://womhist.alexanderstreet.com/colosuff/brownline.gif