

## PETITIONS ON UTAH SUFFRAGE

To view the full petitions, go to [www.quillproject.net/m2/](http://www.quillproject.net/m2/).

Each petition corresponds with an Event Number in Quill, type these event numbers into the search bar at the top left of the home page.

These are petitions presented to the Convention members by Women's Suffrage Groups around Utah. These groups petitioned to include the right to vote, and to run for political positions, in the Utah Constitution. As you read through these excerpts, keep this question in mind: How do you think these petitions contributed to the final draft of the Utah Constitution?

### **Women's Suffrage Association of Salt Lake City**

***Note:** This is an excerpt from a petition given to the Convention by the Women's Suffrage Association of Salt Lake City. The full petition text can be found at this jump code: e692727*

Believing that you are actuated by sentiments of true liberty and justice and because you have solemnly pledged yourselves to the enfranchisement of the women of this Territory, we respectfully request that you insert a clause in the Constitution of the State of Utah, conferring upon women the right of suffrage, and your memorialists will ever pray.

### **Women's Suffrage Association of Utah Territory**

***Note:** This is an excerpt from a petition given to the Convention by the Women's Suffrage Association of Utah Territory. The full petition text can be found at this jump code: e692730*

[. . .] the woman movement means only true human progress, it means higher and truer harmony, more genuine and enlightened fellowship, more real co-operation, more vital and perpetual union. [. . .]

We have thousands of women in Utah who are property holders and taxpayers in their own right. Probably no other state furnishes as large a roll of taxpaying women.

### **Representing the Ladies of Weber County**

***Note:** This is an excerpt from a petition given to the Convention by Representatives of the Ladies of Weber county. The full petition text can be found at this jump code: e692051*

Woman has been denied her rights in the past, but toward the close of the nineteenth century, her rights, her merits and worth are being better understood and appreciated, which is evidenced by the fact of the suffrage being granted her in many states of the Union as well as in many parts of Europe. And it will, beyond all question, reflect credit and honor {143} upon the framers of the Constitution to provide that the mother, wife and sister shall have a voice in the conduct of the affairs of the State of Utah, equal to father, husband and brother.

### **Women's Suffrage Association of Utah County**

***Note:** This is an excerpt from a petition given to the Convention by the Women's Suffrage Association of Utah county. The full petition text can be found at this jump code: e692386*

We further represent that notwithstanding that we are taxed and are amenable to the laws equally

with men, still we have no voice or vote upon the justice or propriety of such taxation or expediency of the laws to which we are equally amenable with men.

[. . .] we respectfully request that you insert a clause in the Constitution of the State of Utah, conferring upon women the right of suffrage, and your memorialists will ever pray, etc.

### **Women of Davis County**

***Note:** This is an excerpt from a petition given to the Convention by the Women of Davis County. The full petition text can be found at this jump code: e692909*

For seventeen years we exercised the rights of electors in Utah and during that time no charge was ever made that any women had abused the precious privileges conferred upon her. This is the first opportunity that Utah has had to restore the franchise. Surely you will not hesitate to vindicate us now, and prove to the world that Utah en are neither ashamed nor afraid of Utah women.

### **Women of Juab County**

***Note:** This is an excerpt from a petition given to the Convention by the Women of Juab County. The full petition text can be found at this jump code: e692912*

We, your petitioners, women residents of Juab County, Utah Territory, being over the age of eighteen years. respectfully ask your honorable body to insert into the Constitution to be by you framed for the new State of Utah, such provisions as will give to the women the same rights of suffrage as now possessed by the men of the Territory, and your petitioners will ever pray.

Which one of these petitions stood out the most to you? Explain why?

How do you think these petitions contributed to the final draft of the Constitution?

## **PREPARE FOR CLASS DISCUSSION**

What is suffrage and why is it important to democracy?

Although these petitions were written over 100 years ago, what role have they played in US History and the history of the State of Utah?

Can you think of examples of challenges to voting rights in the United States today?