



“That women should enjoy this right (suffrage) and perform this duty is essential to the success of democracy.”

Louis D. Brandeis,
Supreme Court Justice,
from a speech given
at the Tremont Temple
(1915)

What formally started in 1848, specifically the fight for women’s suffrage, slowly gained momentum throughout the country. By 1915, 11 states and territories had given their female citizens the right to vote.

Before his nomination and confirmation to the United States Supreme Court, Louis Brandeis was convinced that the role of women in our society had changed and argued that, “Can anyone find ... finer work of organization or more public spirited devotion than that exhibited by the women in the present campaign?”

Louis Brandeis, along with many other men and women of his time, initially thought women did not know enough about government or the ways of the world to vote. He was convinced otherwise.

Look through the news for a story of someone who, faced with new evidence, changes his or her mind about a given topic.

Was it an individual or group’s words or actions (or both) that brought about the change in thought?

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