

“We women of America tell you that America is not a democracy. Twenty million women are denied the right to vote.”

Alice Paul,
feminist, suffragist
and political
strategist, quote from
a banner paraded
outside of the White
House in 1917



While women in the suffrage movement were united in their desire to secure women the right to vote, they disagreed with how to accomplish that. Alice Paul was more aggressive in her approach. She and others broke away from the National American Woman Suffrage Association and formed a new group that came to be known as the National Woman's Party (NWP). It was the NWP that organized the first picketing of the White House in January 1917. The women continued to protest throughout the year, even as the United States entered World War I. Many thought their actions were unpatriotic.

Alice Paul and her fellow suffragists exercised their First Amendment rights by peacefully assembling and speaking freely about obtaining the right to vote for women.

Can you find modern examples of people protesting government leaders on the local, state or national level? What issue(s) are they concerned about? Do any involve voting?

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