

“The vote is the emblem of your equality, women of America, the guarantee of your liberty. That vote of yours has cost millions of dollars and the lives of thousands of women. Money



to carry on this work has been given usually as a sacrifice, and thousands of women have gone without things they wanted and could have had in order that they might help get the vote for you. Women have suffered agony of soul which you can never comprehend, that you and your daughters might inherit political freedom. That vote has been costly. Prize it!”

**Carrie Chapman Catt**, suffragist and founder of the League of Women Voters, quote from a speech given in August 1920, celebrating the ratification of the 19th Amendment

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Carrie Chapman Catt was the power behind the National American Woman Suffrage Association’s (NAWSA) “Winning Plan” which coordinated state suffrage campaigns while urging for a constitutional amendment.

She was so confident of the eventual acceptance of the women’s right to vote that Catt helped form the League of Women Voters six months prior to the 19th Amendment’s ratification. It was a nonpartisan organization, designed to help women carry out their new responsibilities as voters.

Look for news and information about the League of Women Voters at the local, state or national level. In what ways does this group currently support all American voters?

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