

Why Washington?

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Washington was the fifth state to give women the right to vote. The first four states to give women the right to vote were: Idaho, Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming. What do you notice about the location of all these states? They are all in the West!

Why did women in the West get the right to vote before women in Eastern states?

Five reasons:

- Women often already did tough work on farms in the West. They proved that they could do the same work as men.
- Several Native American tribes in the West already had women leaders.
- Women in the West started churches and schools. This made them leaders in their towns.
- It is possible that states gave women the right to vote to attract new settlers.
- Many people did not like that African American men had gotten the right to vote. They did not want African American people to have this power. These people wanted to give white women the right to vote. If white women voted, African American men's votes would be a smaller part of the total. That would make African American men's votes less powerful.



Washington State History Museum Suffrage Curriculum
4th grade
Created 2019