

WHAT IS SUFFRAGE?

“Voting as a right rather than a privilege.”



Many assume that all U.S. women were granted suffrage at the same time by the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920. To the contrary, women won the right to vote in an irregular fashion. In fact, when the amendment was passed, 15 states (including New York) had suffrage.

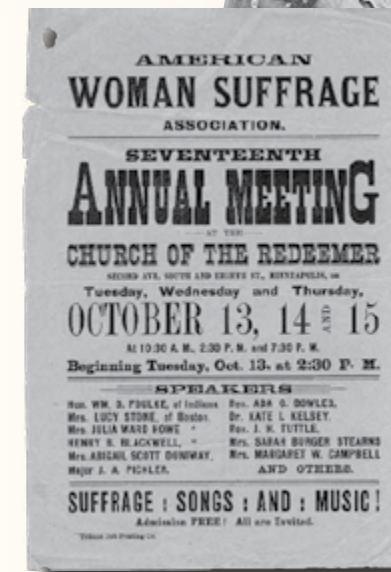
A CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF LEGAL RIGHTS



NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN THE LAW

At a meeting over tea, five women organized the New York Seneca Falls Convention of 1848, where Elizabeth Cady Stanton announced resolutions demanding the vote. Decades of intense struggle followed. Nationally, suffragettes picketed the White House, were jailed repeatedly, demanded to be treated as political prisoners, went on hunger strikes, were force-fed and sometimes physically abused in jail. Similar struggles occurred in New York.

ELIZABETH CADY STANTON



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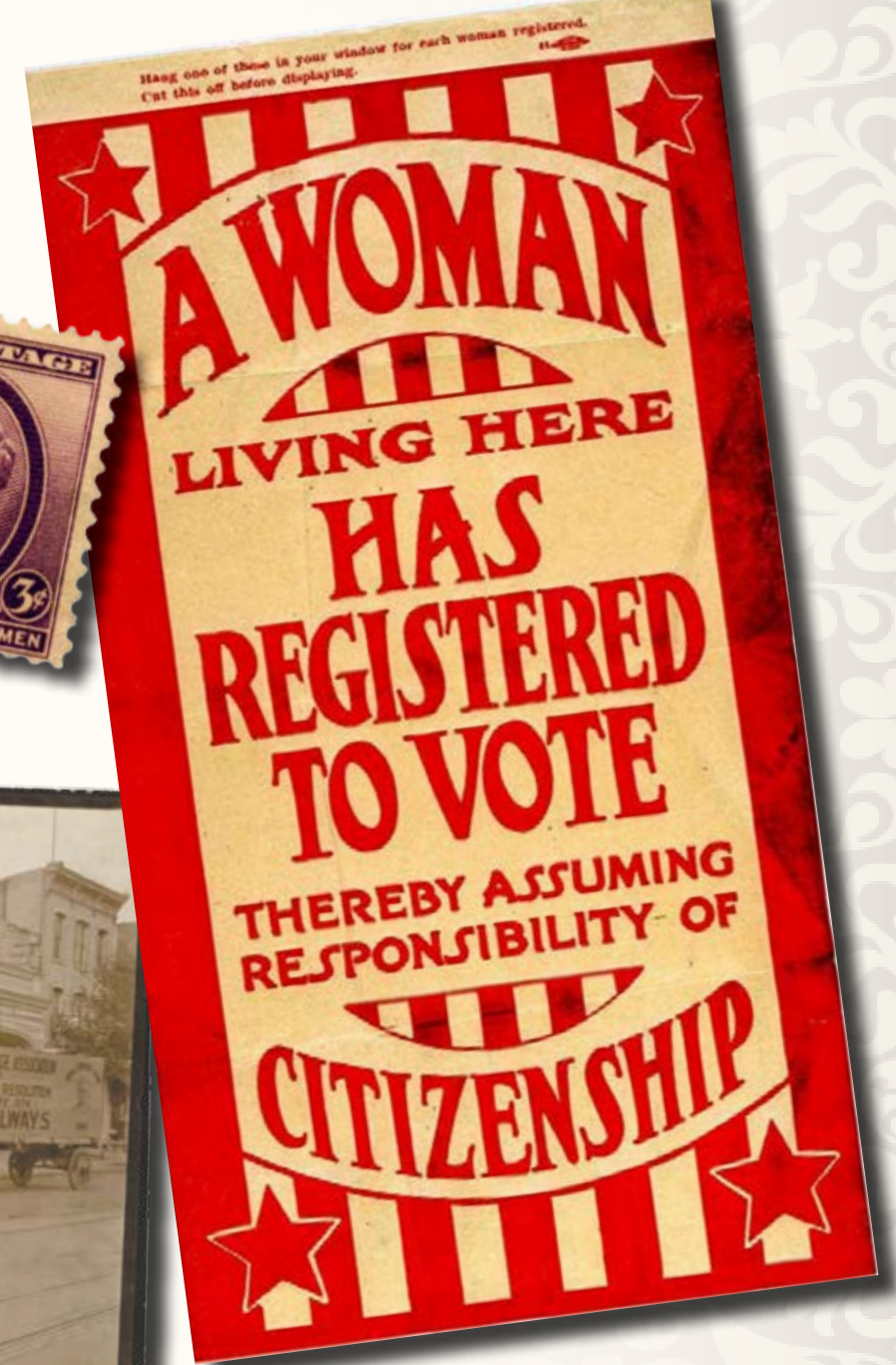
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A significant player in the passage of the New York and federal amendments was Carrie Chapman Catt, President, National American Women Suffrage Association. With two million members, NAWSA developed a well-financed lobbying, advertising and political organization.

**CARRIE CHAPMAN
CATT**



About NAWSA's New York campaign, Robert P.J. Cooney, Jr. wrote: "[In] an enormously ambitious house to house canvass . . . organizers climbed thousands of tenement stairs, walked country lanes, and visited the homes of the rich and poor. The result was the largest individually-signed petition ever assembled, totaling 1,030,000 names of the women in the state."



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