

“Is it a crime for a citizen of the United States to vote?”

Susan B. Anthony, American abolitionist and women’s rights activist, from her speech reported in the *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*, April 1873



Source: Library of Congress

The 15th Amendment, granting African American men the right to vote, was ratified in 1870.

Susan B. Anthony noticed that even with this amendment the U.S. Constitution did not specifically exclude women from voting. As a leader of the National Women’s Suffrage Association, she decided to test her rights. With 15 other women from Rochester, she registered and voted in the 1872 presidential election.

This quote is from a speech given after her arrest for voting illegally. Ultimately, she was tried, convicted and fined \$100 for her actions. Anthony never paid the fine.

Can you find current examples of people willing to risk arrest and imprisonment to either bring awareness of an injustice or to fight for their rights or the rights of others?

Are any fighting for equal access to participate in local or national elections?

Compare and contrast this group with the suffragists in the late 1800s.

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