

# Testimony from Governors of the Four States in which Women Vote.

## COLORADO.

**Governor Jesse F. McDonald.**

I have always looked upon the question as a matter of right and justice. We are not afraid to trust our wives and mothers in other matters of importance, and there is no reason why we should question their judgment and good citizenship in the matter of voting or taking an interest in political subjects or questions of good government, which are just as vital to them as to any other citizen.

The statement is often made that equal suffrage has worked mischief, in that it has degraded the general moral standard.

Such statements are certainly made by persons who are ill advised, who do not know the facts as they exist, and who probably do not want to know the truth. The fact is, and can readily be verified, that the advent of women into the political arena has had the effect of raising the moral standard to a much higher degree than it was before. The women in and out of politics are constantly working for better moral conditions; then how can the moral standard be lowered by placing women in a position where their influence for good is so much greater than it would be otherwise?

Denver, Colo., February 9, 1906.

### **Ex-Governor Alva Adams.**

I offer no apology, and have only condemnation for the political crookedness that has shamed Colorado, but in this shame women have had no part. The principal cause of our infamy has been the influence and the money of corporations working through political machines and their own bosses, coercing and dictating to employes. Knowing that the women voters could not be used to advance their corrupt and selfish schemes, they were ignored.

I look for an alliance between the best women voters and the more patriotic male element in a crusade against political and moral evils. In legislation women stand for those laws that raise the moral standard. While it is too soon to analyze and sum up the influence of equal suffrage upon public affairs, we know that it has not been bad. It has not degraded the women nor lowered the morals of the commonwealth. Over and above all, suffrage is the woman's right, and no fair, just man will deny her that right. While we may defend equal suffrage upon the ground of expediency, it is not a question of expediency but of justice.

Pueblo, Colo., January 19, 1906.

### **UTAH.**

#### **Governor John C. Cutler.**

"In reply to your question as to my belief in the principle of woman suffrage, permit me to say that I have been for a long time, and still am, convinced that it is both right and desirable for women to have the privilege of the suffrage. Utah has been an equal suffrage State ever since statehood was granted, and my observation has led me to believe that the results of giving the franchise to the women have been beneficial."—John C. Cutler.

### **IDAHO.**

#### **Governor Frank R. Gooding.**

Equal suffrage has been helpful to Idaho. I have nothing but words of commendation and praise for equal suffrage, and will gladly welcome the day when women are permitted to vote in all of the different States and Territories, and at all elections. For a number of years I have had an intimate acquaintance with political activities in this State, and I gladly testify that the elective franchise has been exercised wisely and conscientiously by the women voters of the State. Such political activities as they have been engaged in, have all been for good. Women have been elected to office, both in the State and the different counties, and have proved themselves excellent officers.

Boise, Ida., February 9, 1906.

### **WYOMING.**

#### **Governor Bryant B. Brooks.**

During my residence of seven and one-half years in Wyoming, I have found that the women whom I have met have had a vital interest in all that makes for the best things, in city, county and State. This interest has been expressed in the quiet, earnest influence which characterizes the power which good women wield everywhere, as well as at the ballot box.

Bad women do not exert an appreciable influence in politics. The fact that women vote in Wyoming does not interfere in any way with home duties, nor with the pleasant relationships of family life.

My belief is that woman's work for home and church and State is much stronger and more helpful because of the broader outlook upon life which the franchise of necessity gives to woman.

Cheyenne, Wyo., February 22, 1906.

OREGON.

Governor Geo. E. Chamberlain.

At the 1905 Convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, held in Portland, Oregon, Governor George E. Chamberlain gave the address of welcome in behalf of the State. He was outspoken in expressing his belief in equal suffrage. "It is strange that the mother who is capable of caring for the welfare of a child in the home cannot do so in the State," he said, and further; "The question of woman suffrage has begun to be taken up seriously now by the people of the United States. I am glad that Oregon has been chosen as the place for your convention. I hope that this State will give women the ballot, and I hope that every State will do it."

**Put an X between 302 and YES on  
your ballot, June 4th.**

**VOTE FOR THE EQUAL SUFFRAGE  
AMENDMENT.**



MSS 1534