

Ten Suffragists Arrested While Picketing at the White House August 28, 1917

Women started parading in front of the White House for "**woman suffrage**," women's right to vote, during January 1917. On August 28 of that year, 10 **suffragists** were arrested. The women wanted President Woodrow Wilson to support the proposed Anthony amendment to the Constitution, which would guarantee women the right to vote. They started off standing silently, holding **picket** signs reading, "Mr. President, what will you do for Woman Suffrage?" and "How Long Must Women Wait for Liberty?" Riding through the White House gates, his wife by his side, President Wilson customarily tipped his hat to the protestors.



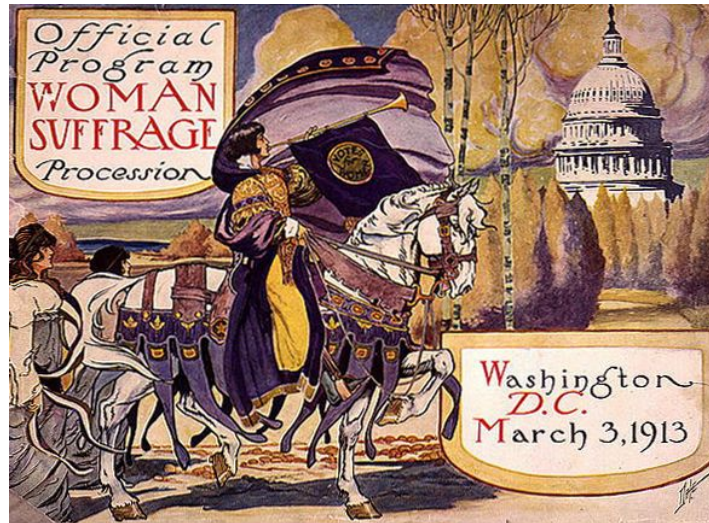
Women picket in front of the White House for their right to vote in 1917



Between June and November 1917, 218 protestors from 26 states were arrested and charged with "obstructing sidewalk traffic" outside the White House gates. During that time, messages on the picket signs became more demanding. The women took advantage of the United States' entry into World War I on April 6. When Russian envoys came through Washington, posters proclaimed that the United States was a **democracy** in name only. Bystanders erupted in violence. What was the suffragists' next move?

Portrait of Alice Paul, a leader in the cause of woman suffrage

The leader of the National Woman's Party, Alice Paul, staged a hunger strike in jail after her arrest. Prison doctors had to force-feed her and others. With all the pressure from **publicity** generated by the White House pickets, the arrests and forced-feedings of women protestors, President Wilson finally lent his support to the suffrage amendment in January 1918. Congress approved it, and on August 18, 1920, with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, women achieved the right to vote. That date is now commemorated as Women's Equality Day.



The program of the Women's Suffrage procession, organized by Alice Paul in 1913 in Washington