

This is the letter Mrs. Potter, of Tyler, sends in, requesting 100 on Neo. As I am not so well posted on all the points, perhaps you had better review before I "run it off."

My Dear Mrs. _____

Now is the time for the last best great drive,- the drive on the Sixty-fifth Congress for full and equal enfranchisement of all the women of the United States.

The United States Constitution declares, "No state shall make an enforced law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States," - yet if a woman living in Texarkana, Arkansas, moves across the street to Texarkana, Texas, the State of Texas takes away her hard won primary vote. Texas does not disfranchise the husband of the Arkansas woman. When he has conformed to the Texas law of residence in election districts, he can count in the public life of Texas. This shows us that only by acquiring federal citizenship can we make the United States Constitution an observed fact in the law of the land.

We want federal citizenship because "National platforms are made to be broken." In June of 1916, in convention at St. Louis, the national Democratic Party endorsed the plank written by President Wilson himself, which read as follows:

The "The Democratic Party:

We recommend the extension of the franchise to the women of this country, State by State, on the same terms as to the men."

We women thought that Democratic men wanted an opportunity to enfranchise us by the st te method. Therefore, Texas women conducted an extensive and expensice state dampaign in the fall and winter of 1916. The Democratic Texas Legislature, on February 6, 1916, votee

against the submission of a state constitutional Suffrage amendment. It had refused "Submission of Suffrage" on March 4, 1915, but we had felt that it would not repudiate the vote of its own Democratic electors on a matter of national policy.

These experiences show us that in a state legislative campaign and in a state election, we must fight the liquor traffic, ignorance and apathy; that we would have to conduct a campaign amongst the negroes, ~~for~~ since all state representatives from "black districts" voted against us; all representatives from Mexican districts voted against us. All representatives from the ultra conservative German towns of Southwest Texas voted against us.

After a series of state campaigns, lasting through eight or nine years, and the consequent exhaustion of the strength of some hundreds of the women most understanding the needs of democracy, - and after the loss of thousands of dollars in making these campaigns, would Texas ~~have~~ gain any better women citizens than if these women are enfranchised by Congress? We think not. We feel that we have worked many years for our ballot, and now since the justice of our demand is conceded the payment should be prompt and in full. Only by government action can our status be made equal to that of men.

If we are enfranchised while the Democratic Party is in power, it will have an enormously increased power, - and though ~~the~~ Texas Legislature may not have exemplified democratic principles, most of us have a bias toward the fundamentals of the party.

We do not believe President Wilson is averse to federal action, but merely waiting till he feels the demand of the people for it. He, in his first annual message recommended a federal primary law

TEXAS WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE COMMITTEE

so he is not adverse to federal franchise action .

We do not believe the West will ever again support any party or any candidate for president that does not guarantee federal citizenship to women. We Southern women prefer to thank President Wilson and the Democratic Party for raising us to the political status of the negro men and the illiterate Mexicans and Indians of our state.

We have written thus in detail because we want you to realize the present necessity of quick, strong work. We suggest the following quick action:

1. Write President Wilson. Ask him to come out for the Federal Amendment, and give him three or four reasons, chief of which are that good men are often apathetic and vicious ones very active toward suffrage.
2. Write to your own District Congressman, and get many letters from the district to him. Take carbon copies of letters if you can, and send to Suffrage Headquarters at Galveston.
3. Write to all the eighteen Congressmen from Texas. They not only represent their District, but all Texas and the nation.
4. Have powerful local supporters of Congressmen ask them to support the federal suffrage amendment.

next month

We hope to have the amendment come up ~~in December, 1917~~. Time is short. Interview your representative this week if you can. The following representatives, we regard as most likely to be won the to support of National Suffrage, and ask you to talk and write to them and to work in every dignified way to win the vote of these men.

Dist. 1	Hon. Eugene Black,	of	Clarksville
3	" James Young	"	Kaufman
" 5	" Hatton W. Sumners	"	Dallas
6	" Rufus Hardy	"	Corsicana
7	" Alex W. Gregg	"	Palestine
11	" Tom Connally	"	Marlin
12	" James C. Wilson	"	Fort Worth
13	" Hon. Marvin Jones	"	Amarillo
At Large	Daniel E. Garrett	"	Houston
	Jeff McLemore	"	"

A bare possibility

