

Idaho

1889—Concerned about Mormons' growing electoral influence, Idaho legislators incorporated a Test Oath (which had been part of its territorial laws) into its original state constitution. The provision resulted in the exclusion of all Mormon men and women from voting. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld Idaho's Test Oath in *Davis v. Beason*.

1890—When Idaho became a state, only men were permitted to cast votes. But Idaho could look to Colorado and Wyoming to see suffrage succeeding in the West.

1895—The Idaho Equal Suffrage Association (IESA) formed and partnered with national suffrage leaders to promote a referendum giving women the vote.

1896—The Boise Equal Suffrage Association (BESA) held its first meeting at the Boise City Hall, located at 8th and Idaho streets. *Idaho Statesman* editor William Balderson encouraged male readers to support the referendum.

Some of the nation's leading suffragists, Carrie Chapman Catt and Abigail Scott Duniway, visited the state. Duniway, in particular, traveled multiple times to Idaho and campaigned in Boise, Moscow, Lewiston and Pocatello. Millionaire silver mine owner, May Arkwright Hutton, proved a fierce suffrage supporter both in Idaho and other Western states.

Prior to the 1896 vote and outside of polling stations, suffragists distributed leaflets and letters to voters urging them to support the amendment.

November 3, 1896—Two-thirds of Idaho's voters cast votes in favor of the suffrage referendum.

February 11, 1920—Idaho ratified the 19th Amendment.

1982—Idaho voters repealed the Test Oath.

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