

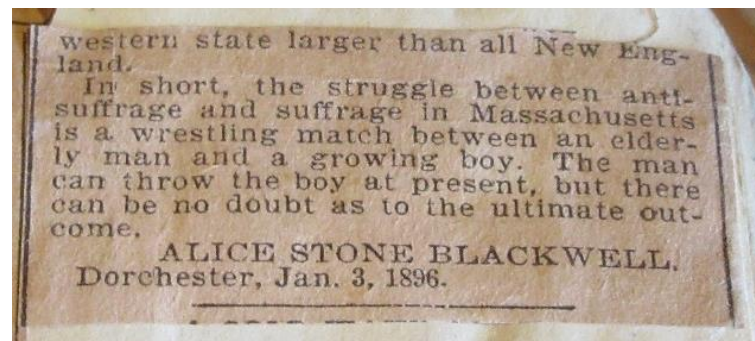
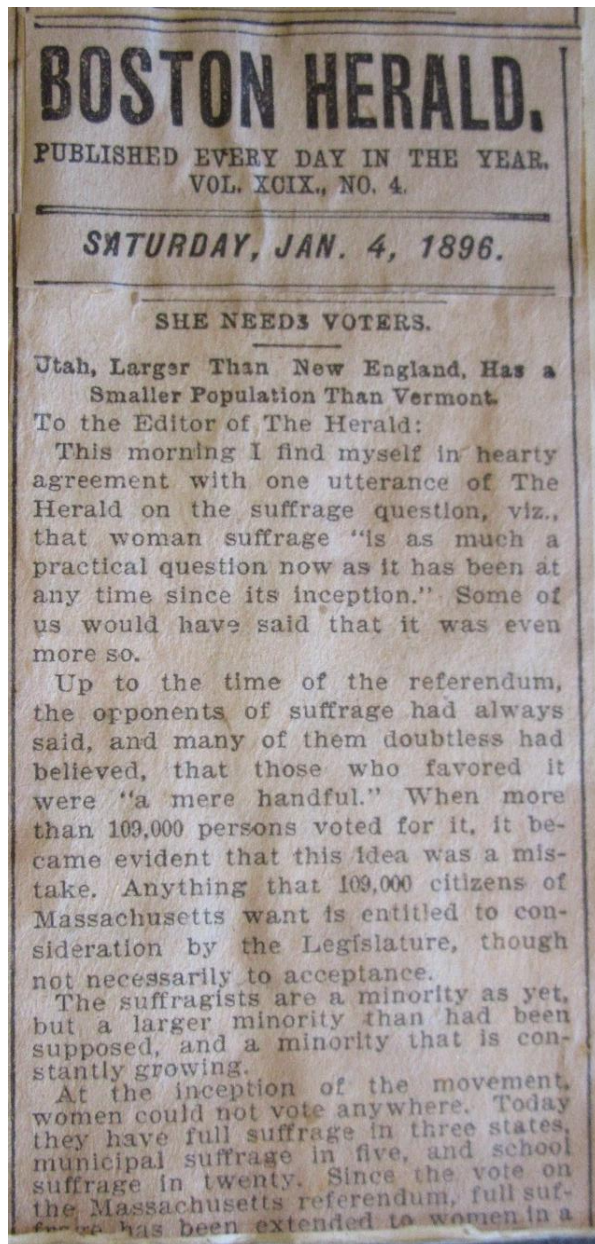
Handout 2E

Expanding Democracy Part II: The Pro-Suffrage Movement in Massachusetts during the Progressive Era

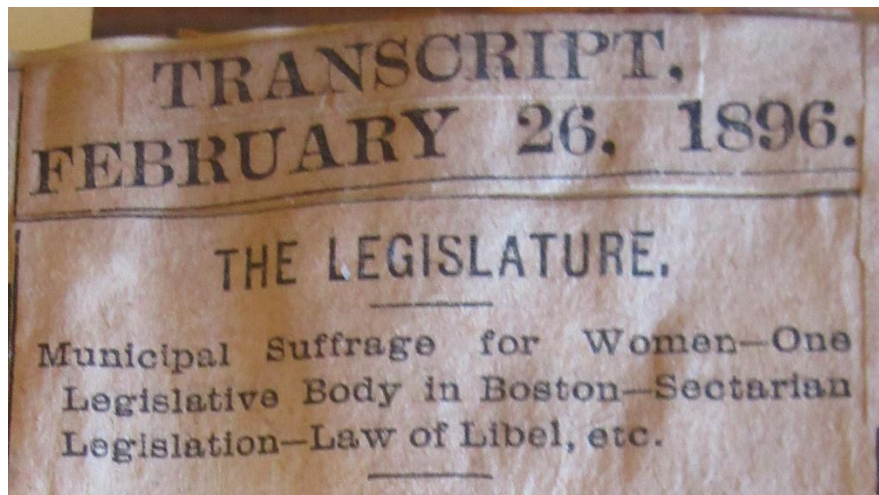
The progressive era saw a reemergence of reform movements, similar to the era of the common man in the 1830s and 1840s. One of these reform movements was women's suffrage. In the early 1900s, states began to place *referendum questions* on the ballot. A referendum is a specific question that becomes law if a majority of voters approve the law (today we simply call these ballot questions). Voter referendum was a new type of lawmaking to come out of the progressive era.

Read and annotate the selections below. Identify the main argument they make for why women should be granted the right to vote (all sources contained in Scrapbook of newspaper clippings pertaining to the women's suffrage movement, primarily from Boston, Mass. Newspapers MA Historical Society Call Number OVERSIZE JK1911.M4 S37).

Source 1:



Source 2:



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a lesson in practical administration

Herald April 1
1. 1896.

FOES OF SALOON.

Women Want to Vote on Granting of Licenses.

A Bill Giving That Right Discussed in the House.

The Galleries Crowded with Fair Spectators.

Attendance at Executions a Topic in the Senate.

A Petition Restricting the Number Not Admitted.

Source 3:

Women filled the House galleries yesterday afternoon and took an intense interest in the debate on the bill giving women qualified to vote for members on the school committee in any city or town the right to vote on the question of granting licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors. They applauded fervently at times, and were decorously indignant at arguments against the measure. A vote was not reached, and a still larger attendance of women may be expected today.

Source 4:

January 12th 1897

RECORD TUESDAY JAN

A large audience and much enthusiasm marked the 28th annual meeting of the Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Ass'n which opened yesterday at 2:30 P. M., in the Park St. church.

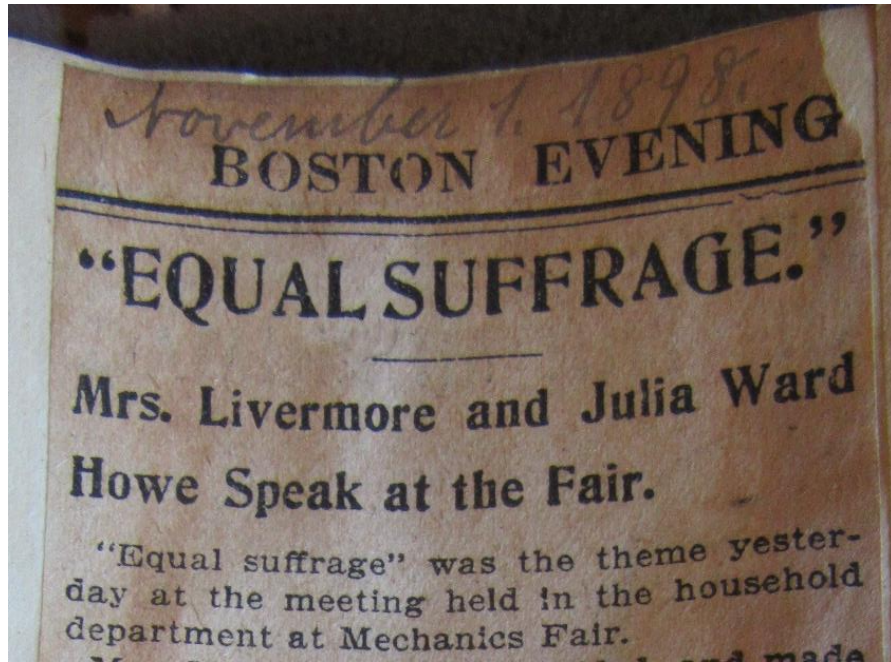
Because of the serious illness of the president, Mrs. Mary Livermore, the meeting was presided over by Mrs. Julia Ward Howe.

Mrs. Howe said that 28 years ago she attended a suffrage meeting to carp and criticize, but went away converted. She continued: "It is worth having lived a long time to see this great unfolding of the order."

"Massachusetts is a leading State and it is a shame that we are so far behind the times in woman's suffrage."

Upon the platform were seated Henry Blackwell, Mrs. Susan Fessenden, Mrs. Eliza Hill, Mrs. E. A. Foster, Mrs. Howard Stansbury of Colorado, and Miss Gail Laughlin.

Source 5:



Mrs. Alice Palmer said:—
"American mothers have a way of taking the children into comradeship that fosters patriotism. They are allowed to sit at table where all the great questions of the day are discussed, and in such an atmosphere they grow up with large notions of how to serve their country.
"If we are largely and intelligently patriotic and let them share our work we can do no greater work for them and our country."
Mrs. J. W. Howe, having been prevailed upon to stay to the meeting, which immediately followed the one given by the household department, was the last speaker. She said, in speaking of our great victory:—
"We have been able to do what other nations have not done. In the east, when there was a pitiable deadlock, no one dared to raise a finger; but when the Spanish atrocities were beyond our patience, we, the youngest nation, the unmilitary and unwarlike, took the stand of justice, and peace prevails."

Alice Palmer was a president of Wellesley College and well known among academics at the time.