



TENNESSEE *Woman's Suffrage* CENTENNIAL REENACTMENT

AUGUST 18, 2020

Follow Along and Fill In! ACTIVITY SHEET *Answer Key*

As you watch the reenactment of the passage of the 19th Amendment by the House of Representatives in Tennessee, you will see how this historic moment unfolded as it did on that day 100 years ago. You will learn the history of the fight for women's right to vote and hear arguments both for and against the amendment.

Fill in the blanks below as you watch, so you don't miss a moment.

This event is in celebration of the ratification of the **19**th Amendment to the Constitution. This is the amendment that gives **WOMEN** the right to **VOTE**. It was passed in Tennessee on August **18**, **1920**.

NARRATOR

"A journey that began 72 years prior in **SENECA FALLS**, New York neared its conclusion as Tennessee Governor Roberts called a special session of the legislature to consider ratification of the 19th Amendment granting women the constitutional right to vote."

NARRATOR

"The American suffrage forces, then, faced a final battle for the **36**th state—the last state needed to meet the ratification threshold of three fourths of the states to alter our constitution."

NARRATOR

“Across the street, the **HERMITAGE HOTEL** became known as the ‘third House,’ where many out of town legislators were staying, caucuses for both sides of the issue were held, and both the **SUFFRAGISTS** and anti-suffragists maintained their headquarters and, even though prohibition was the law of the land, Jack Daniels maintained a very active hospitality suite on the 8th floor.”

What does suffrage mean? Anti-Suffrage?

NARRATOR

“Through it all, loyalties were visibly evident by the display of a **YELLOW** rose for suffrage and a **RED** rose against – especially on the night of August 12th at a joint committee hearing, said to be the largest gathering ever in the Tennessee State Capitol.”

ANNE DALLAS DUDLEY

“We have a vision of a time when a woman’s home will be the whole wide world, her children all those whose feet are bare, and her sisters all who need a helping hand; a vision of a new knighthood, a new chivalry when men will not only fight for women but for the **RIGHTS** of women.”

CHARLOTTE ROWE

“To give woman the ballot is only to **BREAK** up the home and the beginning of socialism in America.”

What might be other reasons people wouldn’t want women to have the right to vote?

NARRATOR

“Invisible to those watching and following the proceedings were numerous African American women and organizations that worked tirelessly for women’s suffrage, yet were largely **IGNORED** due to perceived risks by many suffragists that the elements of Jim Crow racism could turn the tide against the ratification of the Amendment. Notable Tennessee women figured prominently in the Suffrage movement—Ida B. **WELLS**, and Mary Church Terrell from Memphis, and, from Nashville, Nettie Langston Napier and Frankie **PIERCE**.”

FRANKIE PIERCE

“We are interested in the same moral uplift of the community as you are. We are asking only one thing—a **SQUARE DEAL**. We bought [war] bonds, we gave money ... we prayed ... we want recognition in all forms of government.”

REP. SETH WALKER

“The members who are still a bit insecure of voting on Joint Resolution 1 giving women the right to vote, can feel very secure in voting for this motion to table so that we will **NEVER** hear from this Suffrage amendment again.”

REP. SWIFT

“It robs women of their immunities and men of their responsibilities. Under the Feminist-Socialist scheme, men will inevitably become **WEAK** and effeminate, dominated by ‘petticoat government’ (duplicating the tragic history of Rome, Athens, Carthage), and the race and the nation be doomed to degeneration and decadence.”

Get ready to count the votes.

REP. BANKS TURNER

“I wish to be recorded as **AGAINST** the motion to table.”

HOUSE CLERK

“Final vote count is **48** in favor, **48** against, the motion is lost for want of a majority.”

Is the 19th Amendment alive or dead in the House?

REP. MONTGOMERY

“I do not believe the good women of Tennessee want the ballot; but even if they did, the questions which we, as legislators, must decide cannot be determined by what women **WANT**, but by what they ought to have.”

REP. CANALE

“Woman has been the cause of our advancement and **PROGRESS**. How can one afford to deny her the ballot?”

REP. SETH WALKER

“Mr. Speaker, at this time, seeing as how this legislative body is equally drawn in two directions, I would like to call the vote on Joint Resolution 1 relative to ratifying the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. I believe this deadlock will certainly continue and that will **KILL** this ratification process forever so that we can return to the legitimate business of the state of Tennessee.”

Get ready to count the votes.

NARRATOR

“Unbeknownst to everyone tallying the votes, Representative Burn had just received a letter from his **MOTHER**, Febb Burn—a supporter of ratification—who had clearly been following the proceedings of the special session, especially the remarks of her State Senator Mr. Candler.”

FEBB BURN

“Dear Son, ... Hurrah and vote for Suffrage and don’t keep them in doubt. I noticed Candler’s speech, it was very bitter. I’ve been watching to see how you stood but have not seen anything yet ... Don’t forget to be a **GOOD** boy and help Mrs. ‘Thomas Catt’ with her ‘Rats.’ Is she the one that put rat in ratification, Ha! No more from mama this time. With lots of love, Mama.”

HOUSE CLERK

“49 in favor of the 19th Amendment, 47 against.”

REP. HARRY BURN

“Mr. Speaker and Members of the General Assembly:

I want to take this opportunity to state that I changed my vote in favor of ratification because:

- I believe in full suffrage as a **RIGHT**;
- I believe we had a moral and legal right to ratify;
- I know that a **MOTHER’S** advice is always safest for her boy to follow, and my mother wanted me to vote for **RATIFICATION**.
- I appreciated the fact that an opportunity such as seldom comes to mortal man - to free 17,000,000 women from political slavery—was mine.”

NARRATOR

“While we acknowledge the work that still lies ahead, none of this would have been possible were it not for the vote that took place in this chamber 100 years ago today granting women the constitutional right to vote.”

Thank you for watching.

Discuss with your class your thoughts on the passage of the 19th Amendment.

- What surprised you most?
- Why do you think Harry changed his vote?
- Name some people in your life that can vote because the 19th Amendment was passed.
- What new things did you learn?
- What new questions do you have?