

Mayors of Illinois

— ON —

CHICAGO
WOMAN'S
SUFFRAGE



APOLOGY.

Chicago women want the new City Charter so drawn as to give them a voice in the government of the city.

Organized Women.

The largest women's organizations in Chicago, such as Chicago Woman's Club, Teachers' Federation, Lake View Woman's Club, Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Ella F. Young Club, South Side Club, Catholic Woman's League, Friends in Council, West End Woman's Club, Nike Club, Chicago Tuesday Club, Lutheran Woman's League, Educational Union, Political Equality Leagues, Englewood Woman's Club, Hyde Park Christian Woman Board of Missions, Gad's Hill Woman's Club, Tuesday Travel Tourists, Neighborhood House Woman's Club, South Side League of Parents Clubs, are asking that Chicago women be allowed to vote. Thousands of unorganized women are petitioning to the same effect.

Reformers.

The moral forces of Chicago are appalled at the numbers of crimes committed in the city. In a letter signed by Rev. Herbert L. Willett, Bishop Fallows, Rev. Jenkin Lloyd Jones, Rev. J. A. Rondthaler, Dr. W. A. Bartlett, and Rev. F. H. Sheets, it is stated that gambling dens, dance halls, brothels, saloons, unsanitary conditions and opportunities for

graft would be lessened if the number of honest, economical, unpurchasable voters could be increased by giving women the ballot, and that the women, who are about three fourths of the church membership, about nine-tenths of the teaching force and only about one twentieth of the criminal class would furnish the moral force needed to improve city conditions.

The men's organizations desiring civil service reform, tuberculosis hospital, \$1,000 saloon license, neighborhood social centers, beautiful parks, child labor reforms, pure food, prison reform, vacation schools - all seek the aid of women, and receive it.

Legal Lights.

The opinions of such moral leaders is similar to that of the lawyers and judges of Illinois, as was shown by a recent investigation when nine tenths of the three hundred reporting, stated that they approved extending the elective franchise to women.

Politicians.

The politicians of Illinois are coming to believe in woman suffrage. In the platforms of three of the four largest political parties in Illinois in 1904 the right of women to the ballot was acknowledged and approved. Many religious, fraternal, social and labor organizations have passed resolutions favoring woman suffrage.

Wage Earning Women.

The eleven thousand women working in Chicago's industrial centers, as well as those who work in stores and offices need the ballot to bring them economic equality with men who do the same sort of work with no greater degree of efficiency.

Murdered Women.

All women who go on Chicago's streets need better protection from those who assault and murder, from those who decoy and ruin. The gallant, chivalric protection of every woman by every man is a past theory and not a present practice. If Chicago women voted, police officials might be alert to protect their employers, women, and less careless in letting murderers escape.

Foreign Women.

Municipal woman suffrage is no visionary dream. Women vote with excellent results in all the cities of Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Kansas and in all the other cities of the world outside the United States, where the English language is the national tongue. The women in the cities of Sweden, Norway and Finland also vote.

Many.

Although the leading women of Illinois want the ballot, although the reformers declare that woman's moral and intellectual force is needed at the ballot box although the members of the bench and bar

say woman suffrage is just, although many fraternal and political organizations favor the suffrage movement, although the working women need the ballot to secure fair wages, although the blood of women assaulted and slain cries out for justice, although woman suffrage works well elsewhere still Chicago women have as yet no assurance that their right to vote will be provided for in the new charter.

Men of Affairs.

So here are presented the views of those who have made a special study of city conditions and the possible influences thereon of woman suffrage. Each of these men is the leading man in his own city. These are practical men of affairs, business men, political leaders, not from distant cities but Mayors of the principal cities of Illinois.

Letters were sent to the Mayors of the important cities of Illinois asking their opinions as to the desirability of having the new Chicago Charter provide for women voting.

All the replies received, favorable and unfavorable are printed.

Altogether there are sixty-nine opinions—sixty-two favorable, two indifferent and five opposed.

Perhaps the objections presented by the five Mayors opposed are the very ones the reader has had in mind unanswered and therefore brief replies to these objections are appended.

So to those Mayors who disapprove of woman suffrage in Chicago as well as to those who approve are thanks due for courteous responses.

CATHARINE WAUGH McCULLOCH.

OPINIONS.

Edward F. Dunne, Mayor of Chicago.—I am in hearty sympathy with the woman's suffrage movement, and if a member of the Chicago Charter Convention would vote to incorporate a plank for woman's suffrage in the new Charter. You have my moral support and the assurance that I think that the women of Chicago are as intelligent and as much entitled to the suffrage as are the women of Denver, which city I have just visited, and which seems entirely satisfied with the practical results of woman's suffrage.

I. F. Edwards, Mayor of Dixon.—I am heartily in favor of woman's suffrage because I have every confidence in the average American woman. May you succeed in your laudable undertaking.

J. O. Williamson, Mayor of Golconda.—Woman's suffrage or any other move that would better the morals of the city of Chicago should receive due consideration from the Convention.

E. G. King, Mayor of Lincoln.—I believe woman suffrage in cities is right in theory; that the best governed cities in the world are so because of woman suffrage in municipal affairs; that no city is poorly governed because of woman suffrage; that Chicago needs to be better governed, and that the women of Chicago

are not only as capable as the women of other cities, but are fully as capable as the men of Chicago to do the right thing in matters that go to make a well governed city.

The women of Chicago might not speedily solve the question of municipal ownership of public utilities; but such questions as are involved in the proposition to raise the dramshop license to \$1,000 they would surely settle promptly in behalf of good government.

John T. Barker, Mayor of Evanston.—In reply to the question as to whether or not the women of Chicago should have the ballot, it appears to me that equal suffrage is only common justice as applied to many municipal questions. Upon whose happiness and destiny do our laws and ordinances have a greater effect than upon those now excluded from the suffrage? I know of none. I therefore think that upon many question, if not all, there should be absolute equality in suffrage between man and woman; not upon sentimental grounds, but upon common principles of fairness. If she is to be held to an equal responsibility with man under the law, she ought at least to have a voice equal to his in its creation.

John R. Davis, Mayor of Jacksonville.—No man can justly say that tax-paying women should not have the right

to vote on all questions of taxation and for tax officials. The righteousness of such a matter is a self-evident proposition. People who do not believe in equal suffrage for all women, admit the justice of the principle that those citizens whose property is taxed to support the government, should have a voice in the levy and expenditure of taxes.

S. D. Newton, Mayor of Sandwich.—I am most heartily in favor of at least municipal woman suffrage, and trust that your efforts in the Charter Convention may prove successful. "Taxation without representation" is no more advisable for the womanhood of our government than it was for our forefathers.

A. C. Van Tine, Mayor of Flora.—The plain, unobstructed path to pure democracy and righteous civil liberty is that of the undisturbed right of every human being twenty-one years of age and a citizen of the state to a free ballot.

J. H. Seaman, Mayor of Danville.—In my judgment there is no satisfactory reason why women should not have the privilege of the ballot as well as men. There are many emphatic reasons that may be urged for the granting of such privilege. The women of the entire state should be given the right to vote.

John O. Morrow, Mayor of Roodhouse.—Your work meets my hearty ap-

proval, and I trust you will succeed. You have my good will and wishes.

I. N. Boyd, Mayor of Colchester.—There are reasons too numerous to mention why you should succeed in your efforts. I hope you will win.

Norman M. Rexford, Mayor of Centralia.—Women should be given the right of suffrage and I hope to see it. If the Charter Convention of Chicago gives them that right they will be giving them what they are entitled to. It will be for the betterment of the city in many ways, and certainly no harm could come from it.

John Lawson, Mayor of Cable.—We wish you success in your good cause.

W. Sidney Goembel, Mayor of Geneseo.—I am heartily in favor of woman suffrage, not only in Chicago, but in the whole State of Illinois. Why not? The Teaparty in Boston declared there should be no taxation without representation, and, with God's help, let us all work for that purpose. My mother, wife, sisters and daughters should have the same privilege as *foreigners* or myself.

S. D. Moore, Mayor of Carbondale.—I am a woman suffrage man. I believe the women of Chicago are as capable of voting as the men, and I hope to see a plank in the new Charter giving the women of Chicago the right of suffrage.

C. H. Kahler, Mayor of Wilmington.—It is my firm conviction that women are entitled to and should have the same social, moral, and political rights as men.

J. M. Elliot, Mayor of Metropolis.—I heartily agree with the sentiments of your association. I believe the women of our state should be entitled to the right of suffrage, not in municipal affairs only, but upon all questions that come before our people for settlement by the ballot.

John Clinch, Mayor of Elmwood.—The women of the United States are certainly as intelligent as any in the world, and, in my opinion, if allowed to vote, would use better judgment than the men.

J. S. Grigg, Mayor of Sparta.—It would please me to see a "woman suffrage" plank in the Charter Chicago is to have.

William H. Mitchell, Mayor of Fulton.—I would be in favor of granting women the right of suffrage if I thought the majority would take advantage of it, but do not believe it is practical at this time. I am in favor of granting it to all tax-paying women.

[EDITOR'S NOTE—To grant it to tax-paying women, or blue-eyed women, or Presbyterian women, would be, at least, partial justice.]

David B. Parr, Mayor of Arcola.—I think a plank should be incorporated in

the new Charter permitting women to vote on all subjects the same as men.

E. L. Beach, Mayor of Chenoa—Chicago's bad reputation is growing, and I surely think a provision for municipal woman suffrage in the new Chicago Charter could work no ill, but on the other hand, might work a much needed reform. I should not hesitate in giving them the ballot.

J. B. Harris, Mayor of Astoria—I think it would be one of the best things that could be done for Chicago.

W. J. Eddy, Mayor of Shelbyville—I certainly favor woman's suffrage, not only in Chicago, but all over our state. It is a disgrace to the men of this state that they deny the ones that taught them all the good they have in them a voice in the government of affairs.

A. J. Laurence, Mayor of Paxton—Not having studied this question on its merits as closely as I would like to, I shall take it under full consideration, and give it my full appreciation. No doubt your demand is a just one.

Jesse Pickerel, Mayor of Knoxville—Not only Chicago women, but all women in municipal and all elections, should most assuredly have the ballot. If I were a member of your Charter Convention I would not only vote to incorpor-

ate a plank for woman suffrage, but would do my best to get my fellow-members to do likewise.

G. W. Lehman, Mayor of Decatur—I am heartily in favor of the women of the State of Illinois, and especially of Chicago, having the right of suffrage. It is my opinion that municipal politics would be much purified thereby.

H. C. Keil, Mayor of Beardstown—I am not interested in ladies voting. I think most of them find plenty to do at their homes without mixing in politics. On some questions, of course, it would be all right.

[EDITOR'S NOTE—Many of the typhoid fever cases which give women "plenty to do at their homes" would be avoided if women had been "mixing in politics" enough to purify the water supply. Women's arduous home cares would be lightened by a judicious mixing in politics.]

Jefferson Orr, Mayor of Pittsfield—In view of my observation and experience I am of the opinion that the city needs the vote of women. I believe that the influence of the ballot in the hands of women would lead to the selection of better men for aldermen. In whatever department women participate, their influence has an elevating tendency.

E. J. Klansey, Mayor of Keithsburg—I have always been an advocate of universal woman suffrage, and I believe that could the women vote, they would elevate

the standard of honesty, sobriety, and moral conditions in the city in which they live. They have always been considered the elevating and civilizing and purifying element in all society, and why not at the polls? If I were a delegate to that convention I would surely vote.

G. W. Woodale, Mayor of Winchester,—I am quite sure it would be a good thing for Chicago or any other city if the women were allowed a vote. I wish the women of our town were allowed one.

C. J. Pepper, Mayor of Lebanon,—The majority should rule in this country. If the majority of the women of Chicago want municipal woman suffrage, it should be granted. I do not believe in granting suffrage to women unless a majority of the mothers want it, and will exercise the privilege.

[EDITOR'S NOTE—If men's ballot depended on this condition, all men would be disfranchised, for at scarcely any election save a presidential election, does a majority of the men vote. Would it be right to disfranchise the men who are public spirited and patriotic because of the ignorance and indifference of others? However, experience in the four States where women have the full franchise shows that about ninety per cent of the women vote.]

W. W. Parish, Jr., Mayor of Mounce,—I believe that the women should vote at all municipal elections, and think that no member of the Convention will make a mistake if he votes for such a provision in the new Charter. While a mem-

ber of the Legislature I supported any measure in favor of woman's suffrage.

Fred. J. Kern, Mayor of Belleville.—The women of Belleville have made no demand for the privilege of voting. If they want the privilege of voting accorded to them, they have failed to manifest the desire. Were they to ask for it in an earnest and substantial way, I believe that it would be wrong to deny it to them. The more universal the suffrage the better for the city, because the more interest the people take in their government the better it is sure to be.

[EDITOR'S NOTE—No other class of citizens in the United States before their enfranchisement has ever been obliged to beg the privilege of voting. Unbelievers, poor people, aliens, Indians and negroes have been generously accorded this privilege without their own petitions, letters, literature or conventions.]

John B. Lewis, Mayor of Sterling—I am strongly of the opinion that all loyal women should be granted the right of franchise in municipal affairs; the idea of only tax paying women should not be considered. If a man who does not pay taxes may vote, why not his wife, or in case of single men, why not his sister? The right of women to vote should, and I think would in many cases in municipal elections, tend toward better morals in the men elected. I would not favor the election to office of women at this time, but would, after they

have had time to study public affairs in place of fashions.

C. H. Bynell, Mayor of Effingham—I heartily endorse woman's suffrage.

C. E. Beaver, Mayor of Mount Carroll—I believe Chicago should provide for municipal woman suffrage, and will urge my friends there to work for it.

A. S. Mener, Mayor of Bunker Hill—It is my belief that the Women of Chicago could do more good at home than at the polls.

[EDITOR'S NOTE—Thus far Chicago women have stayed at home and yet Chicago is not perfect. Why not try another plan?

F. M. Glenn, Mayor of St. Charles—I believe that if in all municipal elections women were allowed to vote that our cities would have better officers, and that crime and vice would almost become a thing of the past.

C. Collins, Mayor of Batavia—I shall be sorry to ever witness the deplorable practice of good women mixing in the slime, rottenness, whiskey profanity, and tobacco soaked atmosphere that surrounds municipal elections. I have no doubt of your honesty of purpose. I agree with you as regards intelligence of woman. You can keep up the high standard of good only through the best home influence, but in my humble opinion, never

through the degrading association of municipal or other elections.

[EDITOR'S NOTE—It is a pity that political conditions at Batavia are as corrupt as described, and strange that any one who valued his reputation, would accept office secured through such evil influence. At present it must be dangerous even for men to vote there. If Batavia women could vote, the "slime, rottenness, whiskey, profanity and tobacco" would retire to the back ground, and men as well as women safely vote under better conditions. Bachelor headquarters are not always the purest.]

Fred H. Ayers, Mayor of Hoopestown—I have not made a study of universal suffrage enough to give a clear answer, but in my looking at the matter, would say, that I think the morals of our youth are safer in the hands of the mothers of the cities than any other.

Alvin Scott, Jr., Mayor of Naperville—I believe in equal suffrage to the extent that women who own property and pay taxes should have the privilege of voting. I also believe that in rural districts equal suffrage would have a tendency to purify politics.

M. G. Andrews, Mayor of Greenfield—I am very much in favor of equal suffrage. Why has a man the right to say by his vote that his sister shall not vote when they were both born in the same country, rocked in the same cradle, reared in the same family, loved by the same parents, educated in the same home

and school, breathe the same air, live under the same laws and pay taxes. Must she rear her children and have no voice in making the laws that will protect and govern them? No; she has the right by birth to vote the same as man. Yet the man has disfranchised her without a cause. She is equal in education and intelligence to man, and her voice is demanded in municipal affairs today in all of our large cities. Women, go forward and nobly contend for your birthright, as our country needs your influence, intelligence and love.

Richard J. Barr, Mayor of Joliet.—I do not favor the tax-paying qualifications for voting, but with that feature eliminated, I would vote to extend further suffrage rights to women.

John C. Hess, Mayor of Hinsdale.—In my opinion the granting of the ballot to women would tend to purity in municipal affairs, and I think that if the women of Chicago had a vote, the saloon question would soon be settled and settled right.

J. E. Wafer, Mayor of Greenville.—I am in favor of extending the ballot to the women of Chicago.

W. B. Williams, Mayor of Mt. Vernon.—If women were allowed to vote in Chicago, in my opinion it would add

greatly to the morals, reform and enforcements of the law therein, all of which good citizens want.

M. M. Olin, Mayor of Lanark.—I am in sympathy with your movement because I believe it is not only your right and privilege, but because you would elevate the standard of morality and prove a potent agency in closing the open saloon.

Harry H. Devereux, Mayor of Springfield. I believe that this question is one that should be submitted in some way to the women of Chicago and that if an expression of their opinion could be obtained and a majority of them were in favor of incorporating this in that Charter that it should be done.

W. J. Matthews, Mayor of Collinsville.—If I were a member of the Convention of which you speak, I would be in favor of woman's suffrage.

R. F. Quisenberry, Mayor of Atlanta.—I am in favor of equal suffrage, not only on all matters relating to taxation but municipal and general elections as well, believing the result would be good government, better officials, and better measures. I wish the association you represent success in being provided for in the new Charter.

Newton Imus, Mayor of Mendota.—I am in favor of unrestricted woman

suffrage. I consider woman the equal of man in every respect, and entitled to all the rights and privileges that he enjoys. I do not believe in taxation without representation. It was for these privileges that the patriots of 1776 threw the tea overboard in Boston Harbor, which act electrified the 3,000,000 brave men and women on this continent at that time. I wish to give to others all the rights and privileges that I demand for myself. I hope you may reach the goal for which you are making a brave fight.

John E. Andrew, Mayor of Monticello.—I have not the least objection in the world to women voting on all occasions, but Chicago is a great city, and you should be able to settle your own affairs without calling on outsiders.

[EDITOR'S NOTE. That's what Chicago people have long thought, but even our new Charter will have to be voted up or down by the Legislature.]

C. W. Lovage, Mayor of Virginia.—I certainly believe all the women in Chicago and every other city should have the right to vote on all questions and have their votes counted. I firmly believe the permanency of our government will not be disturbed by the ballots of our good women, who are always for the right and against the wrong.

W. H. Griffith, Mayor of Savanna.—In regard to woman suffrage, I am of the

same opinion as the honorable mayor of Chicago. Personally I would take chances at most anything to better the condition of Chicago.

H. A. Dinges, Mayor of Red Bud.—Woman certainly has rights as well as man, but her greatest right and privilege is to adorn her household of which she is queen, and educate her children to be good and useful citizens. But as to woman suffrage, permit me to say that is of no concern to her.

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—Women will not abdicate their queenship of home, but with the ballot be more influential rulers there than now]

Sol. Handy, Mayor of Marshall.—I believe women should be granted the right of suffrage and especially in matters concerning education and the home.

C. O. Raugler, Mayor of Altamont.—I know of no safer and surer way of securing municipal reform than to incorporate in the Chicago Charter woman suffrage. If I were a member of the Convention I would vote for a plank for woman suffrage.

H. M. Kasseman, Mayor of Newton,—I am heartily in favor of giving the women the right to vote in our municipal elections. Many needed reforms in municipal affairs will never be obtained until the women secure the right to vote.

John I. Thompson, Mayor of Lacon.—Naturally intelligence and payment of taxes should be qualifications considered, and this would include women and be an uplift in many ways.

William Byers, Mayor of Mattoon.
I see no reason why women should not have their right of suffrage in all municipal affairs. I am sure it would not have a tendency to lower the present system of municipal government. I have confidence in the mothers of this country.

George Parsons, Mayor of Cairo.
—The elegant refinement of the lady in the home has always been to me the highest type of womanhood, and has developed a greater appreciation of women than any other place in which she has been found. I appreciate the usefulness of lady members of boards of education, as most of the teachers are ladies, and the young girls of the home require the attention of the gentler sex, while at school. Ladies are thoroughly qualified and competent to fill such positions. We have several on our board of education. I do not favor the idea of ladies entering into general politics for I consider their influence greater when they give the necessary attention to home affairs, which I consider the highest privilege accorded to anyone.

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—Such chivalrous fear of injury to woman's refinement was advanced with equal earnestness when woman asked for school suffrage and the right to be members of the Board of Education. Yes, and further back in the last century—when girls first asked the privilege of attending public schools. There were some who feared their "elegant refinement" would be lost. Progress thus far has not injured women in the eyes of this Mayor and probably when women have further suffrage rights he will be convinced by their excellent behavior that full suffrage is desirable.

S. A. Blaine, Mayor of Champaign.
—I think Chicago's new Charter should provide for municipal woman suffrage. In my opinion, this would greatly improve the moral condition of your city.

E. F. Kelchner, Mayor of Delavan.
—I know of no valid reason why the women of this country cannot be trusted with and why they cannot cast as consistent a ballot as we men. Every voter should be a thinker and be ready at all times to give a reason for his act.

A. B. Tolson, Mayor of Peoria.—I am not sufficiently informed concerning conditions in Chicago to give any expression of opinion. I do not believe woman's suffrage would be of any benefit to the City of Peoria.

R. G. Evans, Mayor of Highland Park.—I think ladies who own property are entitled to vote.

J. A. Nowlen, Mayor of Morrison.—

I believe municipal suffrage should be extended to Chicago women. The ballot in the hands of women will bring about many needed reforms.

Mr. Hanlon, Mayor of Canton.—

I am heartily in favor of woman suffrage and would include such a plank in the charter if a member of the convention.

E. J. Metcalf, Mayor of Normal.—

I hope that if the salvation of Chicago lies in the hands of the women of Chicago, they may have a chance to exercise that power.

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