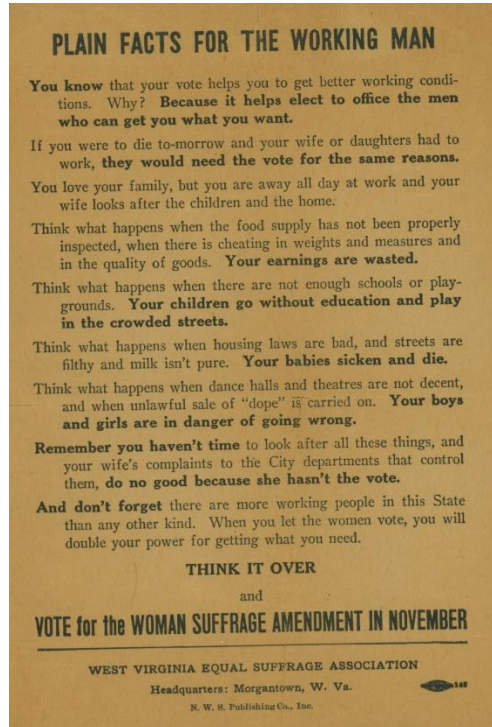


## ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY MARCH 10



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**CSO: SS.8.2, SS.8.9, SS.8.24**

**Investigate the Document(s):**

1. What role do you think American culture and gender norms played in the fight for voting rights?
2. What did the West Virginia Equal Suffrage Association believe they would accomplish by supporting women's suffrage?
3. Using the documents as a guide, what were the major reasons for and against giving women the right to vote before 1920?

## PLAIN FACTS FOR THE WORKING MAN

**You know** that your vote helps you to get better working conditions. Why? **Because it helps elect to office the men who can get you what you want.**

If you were to die to-morrow and your wife or daughters had to work, **they would need the vote for the same reasons.**

You love your family, but you are away all day at work and your wife looks after the children and the home.

Think what happens when the food supply has not been properly inspected, when there is cheating in weights and measures and in the quality of goods. **Your earnings are wasted.**

Think what happens when there are not enough schools or playgrounds. **Your children go without education and play in the crowded streets.**

Think what happens when housing laws are bad, and streets are filthy and milk isn't pure. **Your babies sicken and die.**

Think what happens when dance halls and theatres are not decent, and when unlawful sale of "dope" is carried on. **Your boys and girls are in danger of going wrong.**

**Remember you haven't time** to look after all these things, and your wife's complaints to the City departments that control them, **do no good because she hasn't the vote.**

**And don't forget** there are more working people in this State than any other kind. When you let the women vote, you will double your power for getting what you need.

THINK IT OVER

and

**VOTE for the WOMAN SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT IN NOVEMBER**

WEST VIRGINIA EQUAL SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

Headquarters: Morgantown, W. Va.

N. W. S. Publishing Co., Inc.





REASONS AGAINST WOMAN SUFFRAGE

LEAFLET NO. 2.

Issued by the Huntington Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage.

We represent one-half million women over twenty-one years who oppose votes for women. Because:

1. We object to the **instability** of a man-and-woman-governed country.
2. Women are physically and temperamentally unfit for political activity that involves strain, or for heavy governmental responsibility. Some would desire and secure these things.
3. Doubling the electorate will increase expenses and raise taxes.
4. This is a very bad time to embark on a far-reaching political experiment.
5. The difficulties will be crowded cities and congested industrial centers, or wherever different races make up our American life and politics.
6. There are no better laws in double suffrage than in man-suffrage states, and many conditions are much less satisfactory.
7. The male suffrage states hold 90 per cent. of the population.  
The double suffrage states hold 10 per cent. of the population. The area is about evenly divided. Population votes—not area. The East and South have all the problems. Why double them?
8. New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and New Jersey defeated woman suffrage last November. The suffragists are now clamoring for another vote. They ask for democracy. Democracy means majority control. The majority has spoken and the suffragists refuse to accept the verdict. Ohio, Michigan and South Dakota defeated woman suffrage twice. Illinois has partial woman suffrage secured without the voice of the people, through legislative enactment. Is this democracy?
9. The Socialist party and the Mormon Church endorse woman suffrage. They need it.

STATEMENTS.

1.

The Anti-Suffragists are not and never have been "allied with the liquor interests," and **have never knowingly received money from any liquor interest or so-called "vice interest."** A Pacific Coast Liquor Dealers' Association says, over the signature of its Secretary: "After careful investigation of conditions in the equal suffrage states, we find we have nothing to fear from the woman's vote."

2.

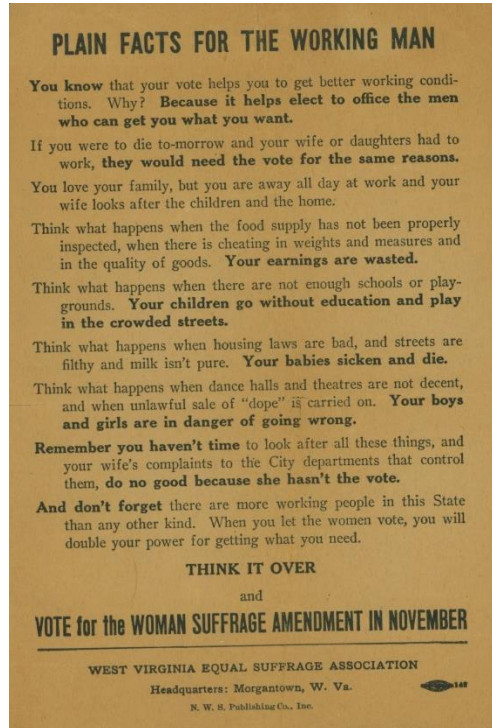
Women are not superior to men, nor inferior; they are different, having different powers and duties, and a work for the world as honorable and necessary as the work of men.

3.

Anti-Suffragists stand for **patriotism**, for a man-governed nation and a woman-guided home.



## ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY MARCH 10



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**Investigate the Document(s):**

1. List (2) reasons that Delegate Lewis Lantz cited for opposing the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment.
2. According to the document, West Virginia voted to oppose women's suffrage by a majority of almost \_\_\_\_\_ people.
3. What did Lantz believe would be disrupted by allowing women equal voting rights? Do these values mirror the contemporary principles of Lantz's time? Why or why not?



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
CHARLESTONL. E. LANTZ  
JACKSONBURG

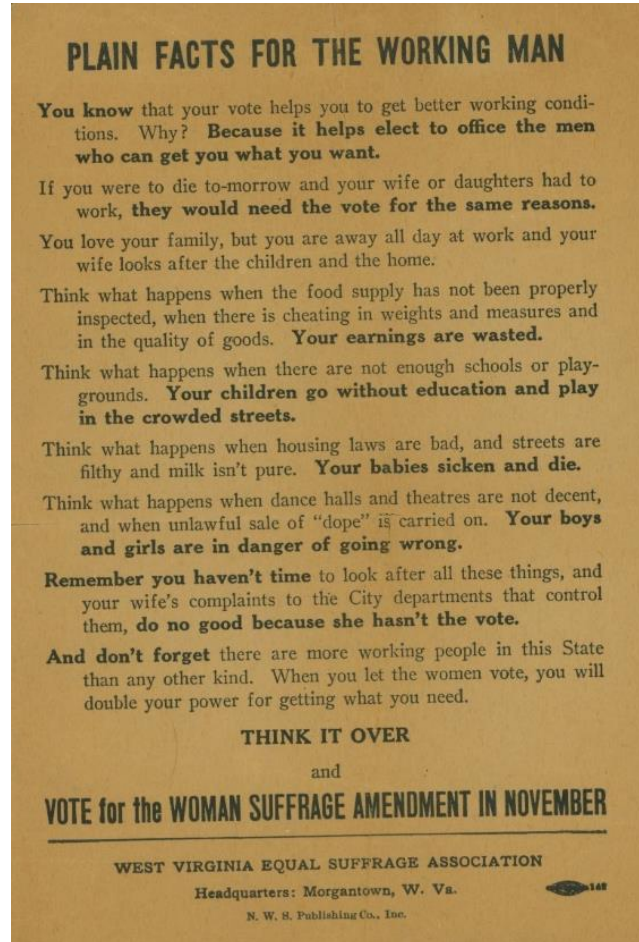
Mr Speaker:

I was opposed to the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution because I did not want to see something forced upon the voters of our state that they had declared they did not want, by a majority of almost 100,000 votes. The voters of West Virginia having rejected Equal Suffrage by so large a majority, and we having accepted the nomination of our parties with a full knowledge of that fact and approved their verdict by our silence if not by open declaration, and having sworn to support the constitution of the state and the constitution of the United States, both of which are founded upon the great American principle of The Rule of the Majority, I could not see how we were to harmonize ratification of Equal Suffrage with our duty under our official oaths.

I was also opposed to equal suffrage as a matter of public policy, feeling that a division of woman's interest between public and private life must necessarily be at the cost of the family welfare and the welfare of future generations. I do not believe that the great influence that woman has exerted upon the course of human advancement, as mother and wife, can be equaled by anything she can do as voter, politician or public servant. Can you believe that George Washington would have been so well fitted to be the Father of His Country, or that Honest Abe Lincoln would have possessed the wisdom, charity, benevolence and brotherly love with which he blessed our nation, had Mary Ball and Nancy Hanks given their time to voting, serving on juries and playing politics instead of being the great, kind, loving mothers they were? I can not think that they would; and yet, being opposed to woman suffrage as I was, I would have felt it my duty to vote for it if the people of the state had approved it as strongly as they rejected it, and I would have done so.

The people of the United States by their representatives in the various legislatures assembled have ratified the Nineteenth Amendment, seemingly, and it has become the law of the land, and will have my respect and support as all laws have; and I join heartily in passing the necessary laws to put into effect the purpose of the amendment. I believe however that we should restrict our action to just such laws, <sup>as</sup> are absolutely necessary to give women a vote, leaving all other legislation affecting their interests until they have had an opportunity to use their right of franchise, and then to act in co-operation with them. We have admitted them into full political partnership with us and we owe it to justice, right and the great religion of a Square Deal to await their co-operation before considering other laws affecting their personal interest and welfare.

## ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY MARCH 10



**On March 10, 1920, the West Virginia Legislature passed a joint resolution ratifying the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving women the right to vote.**

**CSO: SS.8.2, SS.8.9, SS.8.24**

**Investigate the Document(s):**

- Put yourself in the year 1920. The states are about to vote whether to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment and you find yourself in a position of influence; you have the opportunity to persuade others to support women's suffrage. What arguments would you use to gain followers to supporting the cause? How would enfranchising women improve democracy? Write a persuasive essay (1-2 pages; 250 word minimum) to make your case.



## TRUE DEMOCRACY

**We Believe**

That "governments derive their **just** powers from the consent of the governed."

**We Believe**

That a democracy is " a government **of** the people, **by** the people, and **for** the people."

**We Believe**

That **women are people** and are governed.

**We Believe**

That no state can be a true democracy in which **one-half** the people are denied the right to vote.

**We Believe**

That women **need** the vote **for the same reason** that men need it.

**We Believe**

That **because laws regulate a woman's life and the lives of her children**, and because they tax her property and may even sentence her to death, **she should have the right to share in the making of the laws.**

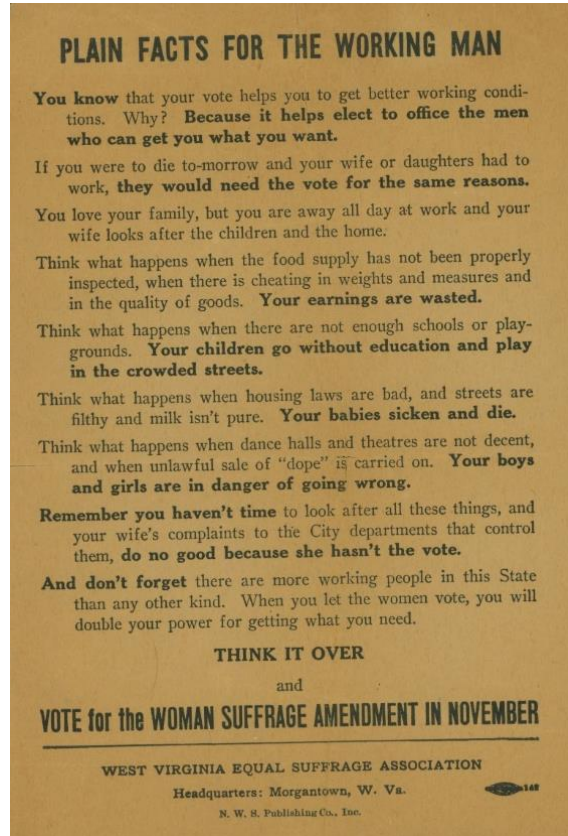
**We Believe**

That democracy bids **everyone** stand up and be counted, and that on Election Day **no one may be counted for more than one.**

IF YOU BELIEVE THIS

**VOTE for the WOMAN SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT IN NOVEMBER**

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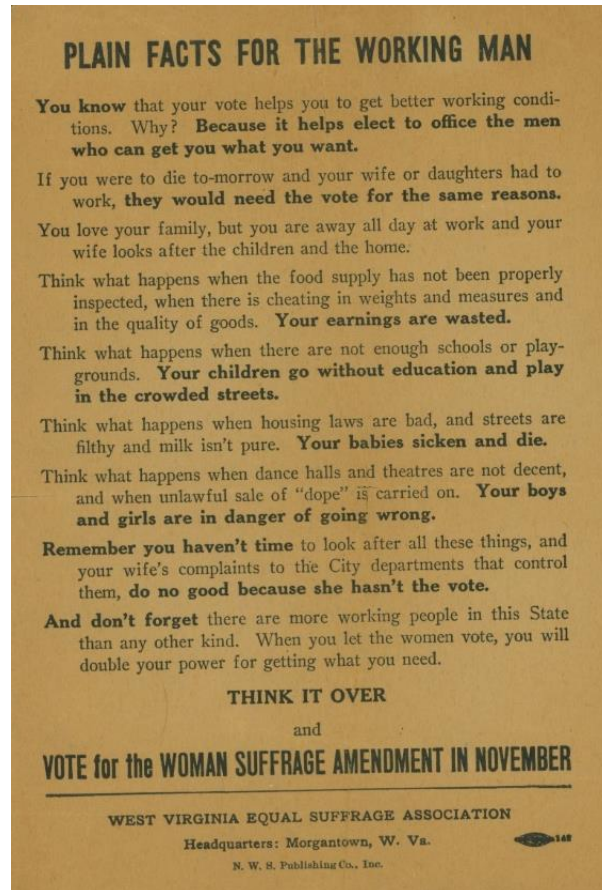
**Political Cartoon(s):**

1. Describe what you see. What do you notice first? What people and objects are shown? What, if any, words do you see?
2. What is happening in this cartoon? Who is the target audience?
3. From your examination of the cartoon, do you think the artist supported the suffrage movement? Why or why not?





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**Political Cartoon(s):**

1. Based on your opinion of the cartoon; write a caption that summarizes the artist's point of view.
2. What evidence did you use to come to your conclusion?
3. What does "unsex" imply? Does this say something about gender expectations during the early twentieth century?



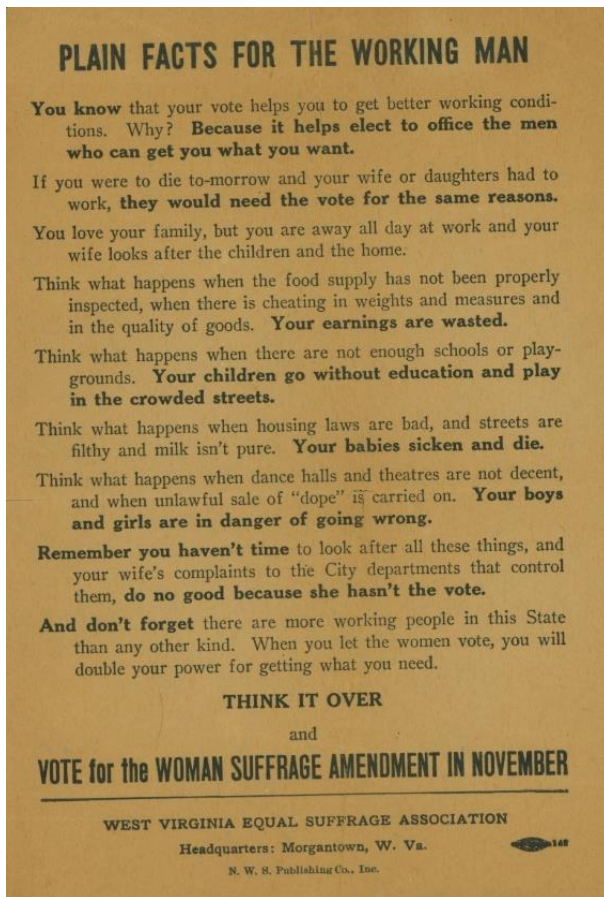
IT DOESN'T UNSEX HER HERE



WHY SHOULD IT HERE ?



## ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY MARCH 10



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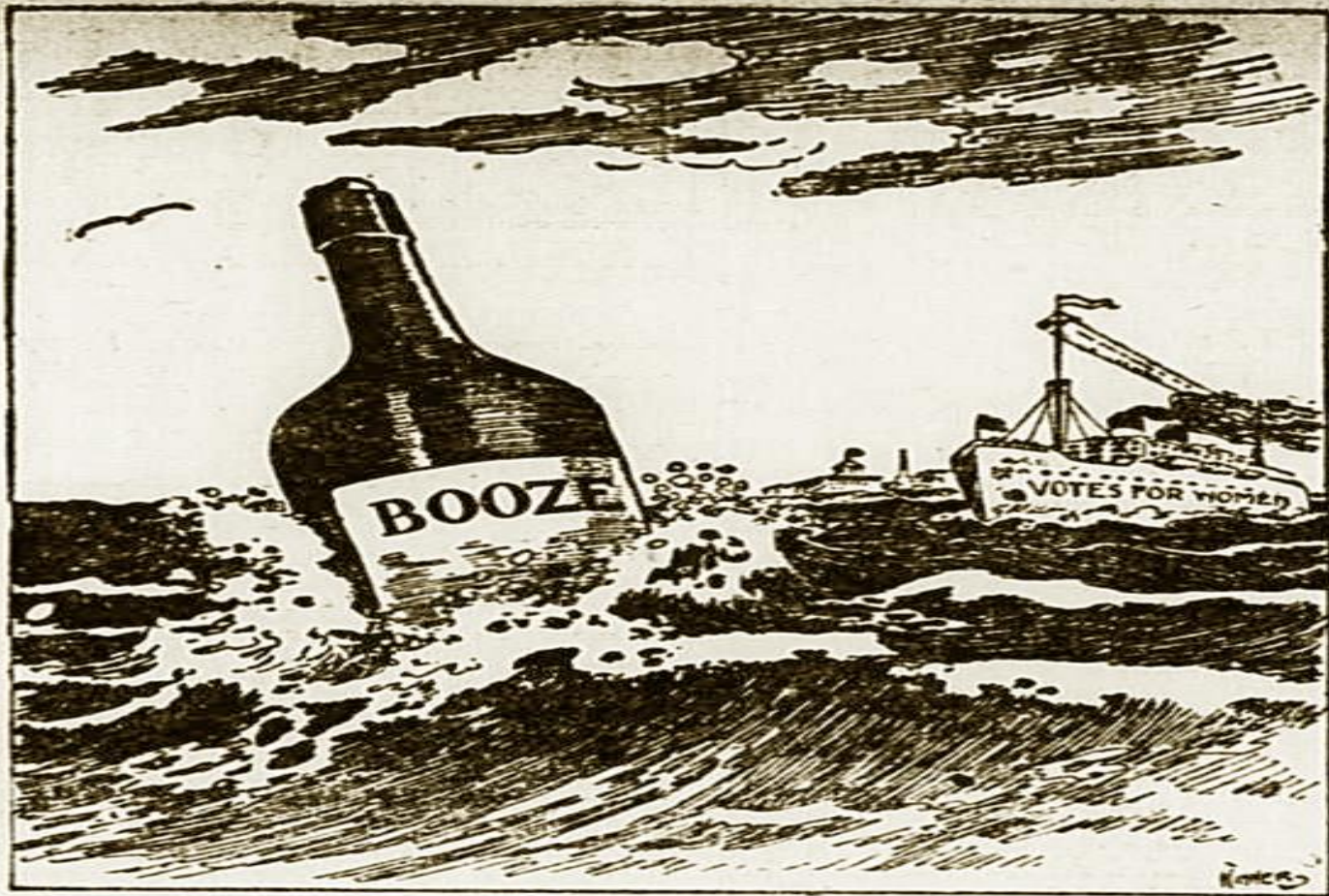
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**Political Cartoon(s):**

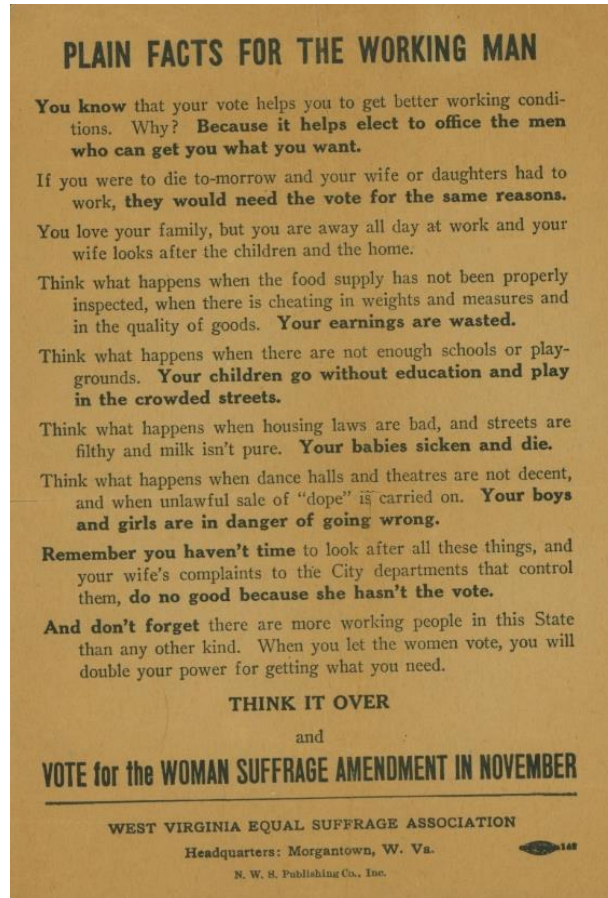
1. Do you believe images are more powerful than words?
2. Why do you think political cartoons are so successful in reaching people?
3. What message is the cartoonist attempting to convey?
4. What does the floating bottle signify? Did the liquor industry want women to have the right to vote? If not, why?



**THE FLOATING MINE**



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**Political Cartoon(s):**

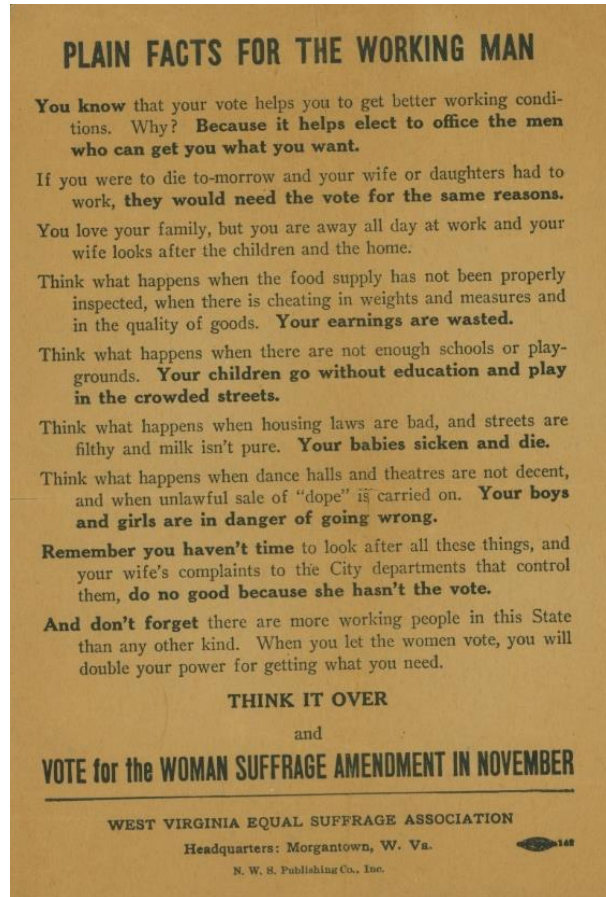
1. What do you suppose the caption "Beware of Pickpockets" is a reference to?
2. Why do you presume the cartoonist used vernacular dialogue for the man representing "booze interests?" Does this suggest anything about the cartoonist's opinion on the struggle between the women's suffragists and the liquor industry?
3. What is the man representing "booze interests" attempting to persuade West Virginia lawmakers to do by being disparaging towards the women's suffrage movement?



**BEWARE OF PICKPOCKETS**



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**Political Cartoon(s):**

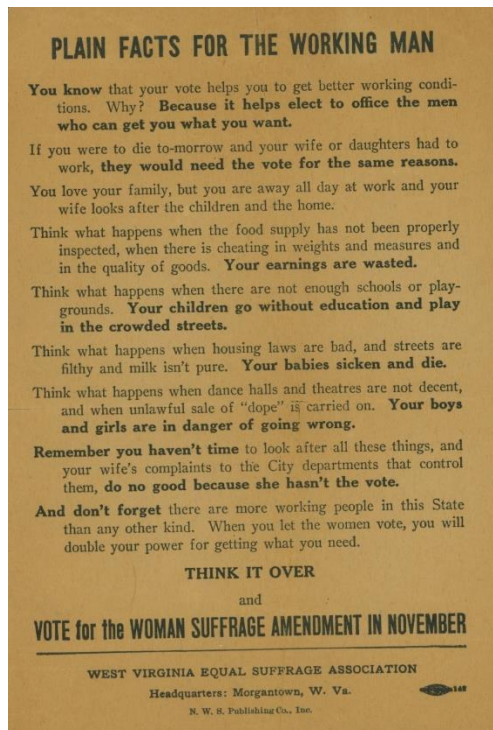
1. What is happening in this cartoon?
2. What do the signs tell us about the temperament of anti-suffragists?
3. What does the caption "All Dressed Up and No Place to Go" signify to you about the cartoonist's opinions on the anti-suffragists?
4. Did you find this cartoon convincing? Why or why not?



# All Dressed Up and No Place to Go



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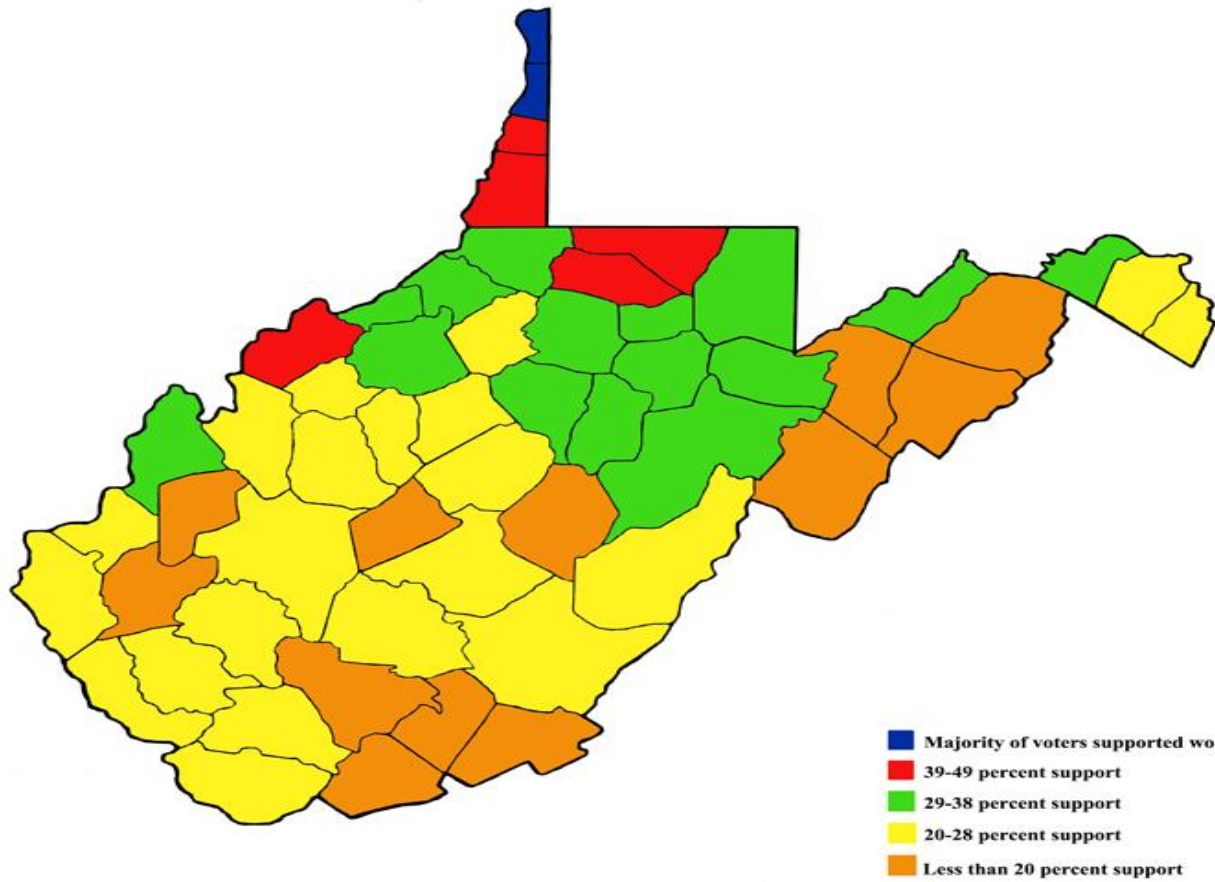
### **Investigate the Document(s):**

Use the map to answer the following:

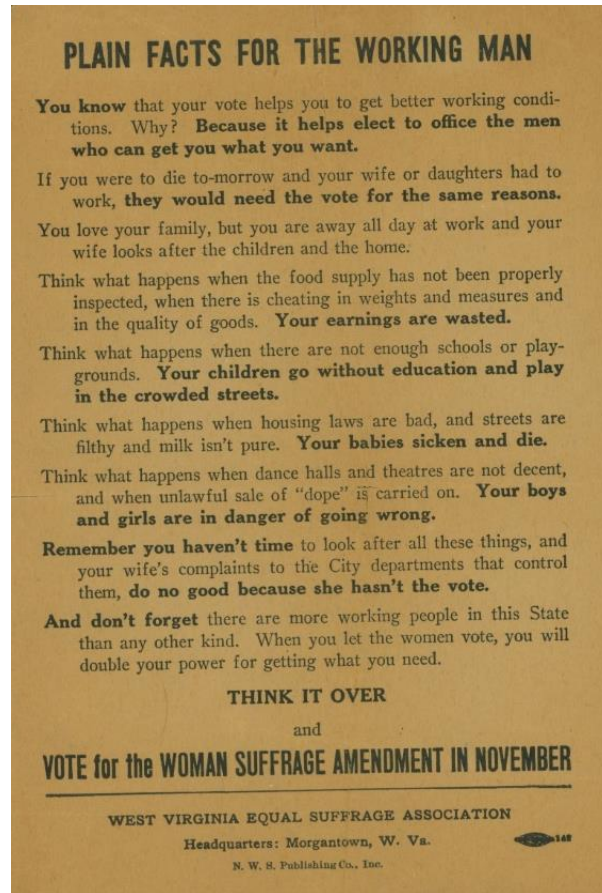
1. What were the **ONLY** two counties in West Virginia to have a majority of voters support women's suffrage?
2. Which of the following counties had a 39-49% vote in support of suffrage?
  - a. Kanawha
  - b. Wirt
  - c. Wood
  - d. Jackson
3. Which of the following counties had less than 20% of voters support women's suffrage?
  - a. Monongalia
  - b. Doddridge
  - c. Pleasants
  - d. Raleigh
4. Did the citizens of Fairmont **or** Huntington *likely* have greater support for women's suffrage?



### Vote Supporting 1916 Referendum on Woman Suffrage



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### **Investigate the Document(s):**

1. It took seventy-two years from the Seneca Falls Convention (1848) before the passing of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1920. According to these documents, why were people opposed to woman suffrage? Are these a microcosm of the fight that women had to endure to obtain equal voting rights?
2. Do you think the reasons for opposing suffrage were political (men didn't want to lose their political positions) or social reasons (ideas about women's place in society)?
3. Using these documents, write 3-5 sentences about your takeaway of the anti-suffragist platform. Do any of these demeaning stereotypes and opinions of women still exist today?



LAWS RELATING TO WOMEN IN WEST VIRGINIA

LEAFLET NO. 1.

Issued by the Huntington Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage.

A CATECHISM.

1. What property rights have women?  
Both married and unmarried have same as men.
2. What regulation of hours of labor?  
No statute on this subject. Labor Department and Labor Commissioner have always sought welfare of women.
3. What dower rights has a widow?  
Dower in this state is an inchoate interest in one-third of the real estate of husband, and can be barred only by acts of wife.
4. What is curtesy? (man's equivalent of dower.)  
Curtesy is a contingent life interest in the whole of the wife's real estate, but is not an inchoate right and it may be barred by the wife's conveyance of her separate estate, if she be living separate and apart from her husband.
5. Can a woman convey her own property if living separate and apart from her husband, or if her husband be of unsound mind?  
Yes.
6. Can a married woman engage in a separate business and claim all profits therefrom?  
Yes.
7. What is the age of consent for girls?  
Fourteen years. (Col. 3, section 5166, Code of 1913. Acts of West Virginia Legislature of 1887, Chap. 34.)
8. Does the Workmen's Compensation law cover women and children?  
Yes.
9. What is the status of a mother as heir-at-law of a child?  
If the father is dead, the mother shares with surviving brothers and sisters.
10. What are the obligations of a husband and wife toward support of family?  
Wife under no compulsion. Husband compelled to support, or can be imprisoned for non-support, or, after arrest, must give bond with good security for same.
11. What is the Child Labor law?  
Minors under fourteen cannot be employed in any mining or manufacturing establishment and cannot be employed in any business whatever in school hours.
12. Who can appoint a testamentary guardian of a child?  
The father may appoint a guardian of the estate of a minor and the mother may do the same if she is a widow or unmarried, but the father cannot by will deprive the mother of the custody and education of the children. Minors may choose guardians after they are over the age of 14.
13. Why is the father the guardian of the child?  
The law presumes that the father is better able to manage the estate of the child. If the father is unfit, the courts protect the welfare of the child and the statutes give the courts wide discretion in matters pertaining to the assets and persons of minor children.
14. What legal restrictions are placed upon risks to women in labor?  
Women cannot be employed in mines, nor are they permitted to work around machinery in motion. Women must be provided with seats wherever employed.

(Prepared under legal supervision.)

April 1, 1916.





REASONS AGAINST WOMAN SUFFRAGE

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