

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Be Adopted
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Atkinson, Beyer, Burdick, Ferrioli, Rosenbaum
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Erin Seiler, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Commemorates centennial of woman suffrage in Oregon and efforts of those who led woman suffrage campaign of 1912.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of woman suffrage movement in Oregon
- Coalition of women, men, local suffrage associations and equal rights leagues whom led successful 1912 woman suffrage campaign
- Role of Abigail Scott Duniway in woman suffrage movement
- Events celebrating woman suffrage centennial and promoting women’s history in Oregon

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: In 2012, Oregon will celebrate the centennial of woman suffrage in Oregon. After five previous statewide suffrage ballot measures were unsuccessful, in 1912 Oregon voters became one the first states to give women the full right to vote. This occurred eight years before ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The Oregon campaign for full suffrage for women was led by Abigail Scott Duniway who, beginning in 1870, spent the next 42 years engaging the public in a conversation about woman suffrage via the publication *The New Northwest* newspaper. Full suffrage for women had its first debate in the Oregon Legislature in 1872 and, by 1912, suffrage had been defeated in five statewide votes. The first two attempts were put before the voters by the Legislature in 1884 and 1900; in the subsequent three attempts (1906, 1908 and 1910) measures were put on the ballot by the newly-established right to citizen initiative. The last three measures lost by increasingly large margins.

In 1912, a coalition of women and men organized what would be the final woman suffrage campaign. Utilizing support from dozens of local suffrage associations throughout Oregon, including labor groups, the Grange, a group of Chinese American women, and men’s suffrage associations, and equal suffrage leagues and clubs, the campaign was successful and Oregon voters amended section 2, Article II of the Oregon Constitution on November 5, 1912, to read “citizen” instead of “white male citizen” when describing the right to vote.

In commemoration of the centennial, the Oregon Women’s History Consortium’s (OWHC) project Century of Action: Oregon Women Vote 1912-2012 is leading the celebration of woman suffrage. In collaboration with such organizations s as the Oregon Historical Society, American Association of University Women of Oregon, Oregon Heritage Commission, and Center for Women, Politics and Policy, OWHC is hosting a variety of events in celebration of the centennial and to promote women’s history beyond 2012.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.