

Women Request the Right to Vote

PETITION FROM THE WOMEN OF ST. LOUIS.

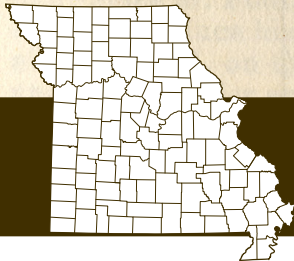
To the General Assembly of the State of Missouri:

GENTLEMEN: The undersigned, women of St. Louis, have observed among the proceedings of the Legislature a proposition to amend the Constitution of our State by striking out the word "white," thus extending the right of suffrage to persons of color.

To this we make no objections, but it does not go far enough. We believe that all persons who are subject to the law, and taxed to support the Government, should have a voice in the selection of those who are to govern and legislate for them. This is simply an act of justice. As the law now stands, one-half of the population of the State is deprived of all expression of opinion upon subjects most vital to their welfare and happiness. Kansas has already conceded the right of women to the ballot, and we trust that Missouri will speedily follow her example.

We therefore pray that an amendment may be proposed striking out the word "male," and extending to women the right of suffrage—and, as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

MRS. FRANCIS MINOR,
MRS. STEPHEN RIDGLEY, and 353 others.



Suffrage Petition, 1867.
Missouri State Archives

Suffrage Petition, 1867.

In 1867, Virginia Minor sent a petition to the state legislature. It asked that a proposed amendment to the state constitution permitting African American men to vote also include women. This petition was overwhelmingly rejected by the state legislature.

ANALYZING DOCUMENTS

OBSERVE

Title _____ Author(s) _____ Date _____

Use the document to complete the following table:

TYPE OF DOCUMENT:	AUDIENCE:
TOPIC or ISSUE:	PURPOSE:

PHYSICAL QUALITIES OF THE DOCUMENT (Check one or more)

Letterhead Handwritten Typed Seals
 Notations "Received" Stamp Illustration

REFLECT

What do you see in the document that seems to be important? _____

Why do you think someone chose to save this document? _____

What documents in your life might be saved? _____

What might they tell future historians about you? _____

QUESTION

What question/questions would you like the author to answer? _____

Does the document agree or disagree with other things you have read about the topic? _____