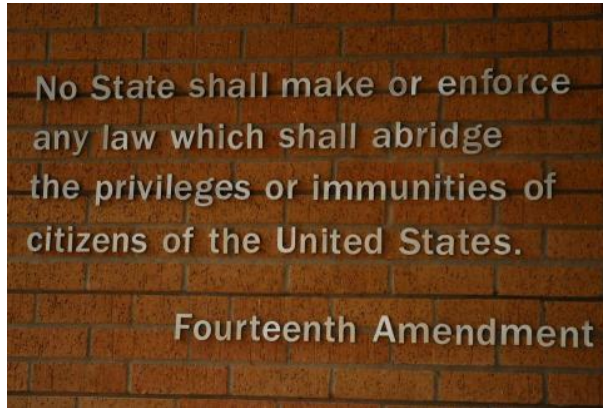




0. HOW DID SHE GET INTO TROUBLE? - Story Preface

1. HOW DID SHE GET INTO TROUBLE?

2. EARLY TRAINING

3. STRENGTH OF CONVICTION

4. A WORTHY CANDIDATE?

5. "THAT CONVENTION"

6. ATTACKS GET PERSONAL

7. SUSAN CASTS HER BALLOT

8. AND GETS ARRESTED

9. THE TRIAL JUDGE

10. THE OUTRAGE WORSENS

11. POST-TRIAL BACKLASH

12. WHEN DID IT END?

Susan Anthony believed that the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave her the right to vote in presidential elections. She tested that belief in the presidential election of 1872.

As a tax-paying citizen of the United States, Susan Anthony believed she had the right to vote. As an educated woman, she knew there were people - lots of people - who disagreed with her.

Although the 14th Amendment (prohibiting states from passing any law diminishing rights of American citizens) took effect in 1868, people thought the amendment did not apply to women. Men were concerned that women's rights would diminish their willingness to stay at home and manage domestic affairs. ([Cartoons](#) of the time graphically make the point.)

According to this [flyer](#) (issued some years later but still expressing sentiments of 1872), even women weren't sure about their rights.

The right, the privilege and the duty of the women of New York State is to bear, rear and educate the youth of the commonwealth; to preserve a high standard of public and private morality; to minister to the needs of the unwise and the unfortunate; and to guard the institutions of church and home.

All this they can do without the ballot.

The language seems a direct attempt to convince the voters of New York (all men) that women like Susan Anthony were radicals who didn't speak for most women.

Ms. Anthony took a simpler approach. She went straight to the language of the Constitution where the [14th Amendment](#) was pretty clear:

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States...

Given the broad scope of this amendment, were women not allowed to vote, their privileges as citizens would certainly be abridged. If their privileges were abridged, a constitutional violation would result. Several [women](#) [tried](#) to convince the Judiciary Committee of those points in 1871. Susan Anthony obtained a written legal opinion supporting this conclusion from one of the best lawyers in town and confirmation from a highly respected judge.

By casting her ballot on November 5, 1872, Susan Anthony did what she thought was right. The government of the United States said she was wrong. She was charged with committing the crime of illegal voting.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/HOW-DID-SHE-GET-INTO-TROUBLE-Anthony-Susan-B.>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/HOW-DID-SHE-GET-INTO-TROUBLE-Anthony-Susan-B.>



Election Day!

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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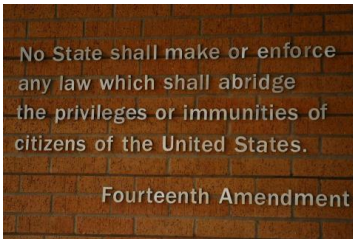
Suffragists Appear Before the Judiciary Committee

Online image, courtesy U.S. Library of Congress.

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HOW DID SHE GET INTO TROUBLE?

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