

## *Opinions on Women's Suffrage in Utah: 1870-1895*

### ANSWER KEY

Time Period	Key Groups	Pro-Suffrage? Yes, No, Mixed	Reasons for Opinion
Enfranchisement: Getting the Vote, 1870	Anti-Polygamists	Y	Many believed that granting women the vote would mean that Utah women would vote against polygamy--a practice they viewed as immoral and enslaving women.
	Mormons	Y	They believed that granting women the vote would help combat negative stereotypes about Mormon women. They knew that Utah women would not vote against polygamy because Utah women were not enslaved. They also wanted to increase the number of Mormons who could vote.
	Utah Territorial Legislature	Y	They believed that granting women the vote would mean that Utah women would not vote against polygamy because Utah women were not enslaved.
Disfranchisement: Losing the Vote, 1871-1887	Anti-Polygamists	N	They believed that polygamous women would vote as their husbands wished they would vote. They thought taking away the vote would punish polygamous women and men, forcing them to abandon the practice.
	Mormons	Y	They believed that Utah women used their right to vote wisely once they were granted suffrage. They defended their religious freedom to practice polygamy. They argued that it was wrong for Congress to infringe on that freedom and to punish Utah's women by taking away their right to vote.
	U.S. Congress	N	They believed that taking away the vote from polygamous women and men would punish them and force them to abandon polygamy. When the Mormons refused to abandon their beliefs, Congress increased its punishments to include taking away the vote from all Utah women.
Re-enfranchisement: Winning Back the Vote, 1888-1895	Utah Woman Suffrage Association	Y	They believed that women are equal to men and that women deserve representation in government. They argued that Utah women had already proven their ability to vote wisely for 17 years. They were committed to the principle of suffrage not just in Utah but also throughout the nation.
	Anti-Polygamists	Y	After the Mormon church officially ended support for the practice of polygamy in 1890, many began to tentatively join forces with Mormon women to work for suffrage, statehood, and other issues that affected all Utah women.
	Utah State Constitutional Delegates (all men)	Mixed	<p>The majority believed that women deserved voting rights because they are equal to men, that they voted for 17 years without any problems, and that they would clean up the government.</p> <p>The minority argued that placing women's suffrage in the state constitution would risk Congress not granting statehood.</p>