



Ballots for Belva: The True Story of a Woman's Race for the Presidency

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Book Description

Elementary | Biography

This picture book biography explains Belva Lockwood's journey to becoming the first woman to run for President of the United States in 1884, before women had the right to vote. She famously said, "I cannot vote, but I can be voted for." Despite the fact that Belva lost the election to Grover Cleveland, she did all in her power at the time to further a woman's place in the U.S. government. The book includes an extensive author's note, a women's suffrage timeline, and selected bibliography.

Discussion Questions

- What were Belva's reasons for running for president in spite of a lack of support from many?
- What may have inspired Belva to continue her campaign even when she had little support? What inspires you to keep going through hard things?
- Think of a time that you may have lost something like a race or when you became discouraged in completing a task. How did that experience help you grow? Identify what you learned along the way in preparing for that race or that show.
- What can you learn from experiences when you might not win?

Utah Connection

In 1869, at age 27, Phoebe Couzins began her studies at Washington University Law School in St. Louis, Missouri, and earned a Bachelor of Laws Degree in 1871, becoming the first female graduate of Washington University School of Law and one of the first women in the United States to graduate from law school. After passing the bar exam, she

was licensed to practice in the federal courts in Missouri, Arkansas, Utah, and Kansas. After her father died in 1887, the U.S. government appointed her as the first female in the U.S. Marshal Service, and she finished her father's term of service.

"The Utah Bar admitted [Georgianna "Georgia" Snow] Carleton in 1872, at the age of thirty. Before her admission, Carleton studied the law for three years with her father, Zerubbabel Snow, who was then the Attorney General of the Utah Territory and later a territorial Utah Supreme Court Judge. A committee appointed by Chief Justice McKean of the territorial Utah Supreme Court examined and approved Carleton's application for admission and her legal qualifications. Carleton served as territorial librarian, later moving to Wyoming and entered politics. She served as an alternative delegate to the 1892 presidential convention. Carleton later moved to San Diego, where she was a member of the Board of Education. She died in 1915." From *Women Trailblazers in the Law: Utah's First 100 Women Lawyers*.



Phoebe Couzins in 1887.