

The Woman Suffrage Party Pennant and Pin

Date: Circa 1909

Media: Pennant, wool felt with ink imprint; Pin, celluloid over metal.

Comment: The Woman Suffrage Party (WSP) was founded by Mrs. Carrie C. Catt in 1907. The WSP of greater New York was modeled on the Democrat and Republican parties in the hope that by organizing, as the major parties did in New York's assembly and election districts, the WSP thought it would bring woman suffrage close to male voters and eventually influence both politicians and their parties via public opinion.

Pennants like this were distributed at the WSP first convention on 29 October 1909, held at New York City's Carnegie Hall, and waved and worn by members and supporters alike.

The WSP grew out of the efforts of its antecedent organizations, The Brooklyn Woman Suffrage Association, the New York City Society, and the Interurban Woman Suffrage Council. Under Chapman's able leadership the WSP rose to the height of its influence between 1915 and 1917 during an unsuccessful attempt to amend the New York State Constitution.

The WSP canvassed New York's election districts with broadsides directed at men that logically reasoned that a woman's place may be in the home, yet she can perform domestic duties much better if allowed the vote since she will have greater control of outside events that influence her housekeeping, such as public health and clean food.

Provenance: Acquired in 2008 by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC3123 & ZFC3124) at auction, Heritage Auction Inc., Dallas, Texas. www.FlagCollection.com