

1918 | THE NEW DAY FOR NEW YORK WOMEN

THE FIRST VOTE



When an official ballot box was used on Jan. 5, 1918, in the referendum on the prohibition of liquor in the village of Lisle.

"Personally I am very proud of the distinction of being the first woman to cast a vote in an election in this state. It means so much to me because I have desired the privilege and I have longed for the chance to register my protest against the sales of liquor. I know all former suffragists, new citizens, feel just as jubilant as I do. I prize my privilege most because it is a privilege shared by all my sisters in this state."

Mrs. Florence B. Chauncey, Jan. 5, 1918

Historical photograph from the collection of the Village of Lisle.

The original ballot box used in the January 5, 1918 Township of Lisle election.

On the frigid morning of January 5, 1918, nearly 80 people gathered in the village of Lisle to celebrate the centennial of an important milestone in New York State history: 100 years ago, a village woman, Florence B. Chauncey, cast the first legal vote made by a woman in New York, following the state constitutional amendment granting women suffrage.

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Framed Syracuse Post-Standard photo collage of the historic township of Lisle referendum.

For the first time in their lives, women were able to cast their votes and exercise hard-won women's suffrage. The Post-Standard reported that 245 women, approximately 45% of women in the town, came out to register their opinions. Courtesy of Joan Mee Deinhardt, daughter of Francis Patrick Mee.