

Warren, November 10/1908

DEAR MEMBER OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE:-

The following is copy of a letter received to-day from Mrs. Boyer, and explains itself better than I could by telling you about it.

Cordially

Harriet Taylor Upton

" Sunday, November 8/1908

My dear Mrs. Upton:-

Am writing this aboard train. There was some confusion relative to the continuance of the Oklahoma campaign at our end of the line, as well as with the Business Committee end. Really, there did not appear to be any prospect of a campaign after election, because of the empty treasury, so we had already taken steps to close Headquarters, and notified many of the clubs in the State to that effect. This was in compliance with Miss Shaw's instructions of October 7, confirmed by Miss Gordon October 12. Mrs. Laskey visited along the homeward way. Mrs. Dunham is still in Michigan. When Mrs. Laskey finally did return, she brought us the very "happy-fying" news that there was to be help from the National for legislative work. Meanwhile, in anticipation of my withdrawal from the field, I had made some arrangements relative to my personal affairs, and could not change these. So we called an Executive meeting yesterday. Mrs. Biggers came up from Harlow, Mrs. Carter from Guthrie, Mrs. Fugate from Chandler, Mrs. Morrison from Cleveland, and we had a big representation of lesser fry among the unofficals. We perfected plans for the coming work, and there was more enthusiasm than I have ever seen at any meeting in Oklahoma. I asked for a few weeks' vacation, in accordance with my own business affairs. This was conceded, and I will try to return to the State for field work by December 1. Am sorry I could not

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devote all the intervening time between now and the assembling of the legislature. It will require active and incessant work to stir up the clubs, and to line up some kind of pressure from needed districts. This was a weak point at the time of the Constitutional Convention, and Miss Gregg, Miss Bailey, Mrs. Bradford and Mrs. Laskey made flying trips into various counties.

Oklahoma reversed itself politically last week. Haskell has probably killed the Democratic party in this State. It is torn and frayed almost beyond repair. The Socialists have increased 250%; the Independence Party is meditating conquest; and both of these have drawn from the vitals of the Democratic Party. The Republicans are jubilant, not alone the National ticket, but the legislative districts have changed in politics since last year. The Democratic losses are a direct repudiation of Haskell and his demagogic methods.

Election returns are not yet final, but so far we have 25 in the legislature who endorsed the woman suffrage requests, or, rather, promise to support our proposed referendum. This does not include the contested districts, nor the hold-overs in the Senate.

I feel pretty sure that we can safely ask for party endorsement from Republicans and Democrats if our referendum must wait until the next election. Don't think we must wait so long, however, and the indications are that there will be a special election following the legislature's close.

Headquarters closed with a brilliant reception. The Y.W.C.A. kindly offered us the use of their beautiful parlors. We had about 150 guests, and addresses were made by Dr. J. E. G. Smith, Pastor of the Christian Church, and

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J. B. Davidson, Rector of the Episcopalian. Miss Luella Tain-
ing, of Denver, was a fine speaker. Mrs. Adelia C. Stephens
presided most gracefully. Mrs. Green and Miss Maister sang
several solos. The rooms were lavishly decorated with chrysan-
themum, and we had delicious refreshments. The surprise to me
was the gift of a handsome Indian blanket, a glorious crimson,
with a swastika woven in the center -- this the significant
emblem of our coming victory in securing the Referendum.

Sincerely yours "

(Signed)

Ida Porter Boyer

WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION
OF OKLAHOMA

President, Mrs. Kate H. Biggers, Chickasha, Ind. Ter.
First Vice President, Mrs. Minnie Keith Bailey, Enid, Okla.
Second Vice President, Mrs. N. M. Carter, Guthrie, Okla.
Recording Secretary, Mrs. Ida Wood Norvell, Wynnewood, I. T.
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 { Mrs. M. Taylor, Perry, Okla.

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WOMAN SUFFRAGE LEAGUE
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HEADQUARTERS: 124-6 WEST MAIN STREET

ROOM 407, FOURTH FLOOR

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.

Headquarters Secretary, Mrs. Ida Porter Boyer, Oklahoma City, Okla.
State Lecturers { Dr. Frances Woods, Chickasha, Ind. Ter.
 { Miss Laura Gregg, Guthrie, Okla.



Sunday, Nov. 8th 1908

Nearing Kansas City.

My Dear Miss Clay:—

Am making a hasty trip to the East.

Regret that I made some business arrangements that I could not recall. It seemed like hoping against hope that the National would decide on further work here and we were regretfully preparing to close Headquarters.

Your letters to Mrs. Biggers and to me were the first intimation received that we might expect to continue. I cannot express how grateful I felt, that all our promising efforts were not to be abandoned. We are so hopeful under the changed political conditions. It is almost a revolution. The Anti-Haskellites and the Republicans are predicting that this will be a Republican State at next gubernatorial election in 1910. I cannot quite agree with this view, even though the returns in this 'Bogus Child-of-promise' state show a tremendous Democratic slump. It is normally a Democratic State, but will not again be so arrogantly, overwhelmingly so at when it entered Statehood. Two things operated against the Democrats this time. First the revolt against Haskell's unprincipled methods, second the astonishing spread of Socialism. The Socialist vote increased 250% over its membership last year. It is growing marvelously. So it should. They have had 20 speakers constantly in the field. We could do the same with like means. A new menace is arising which causes

much disquietude among Democrats. This is the coming organization and campaigning of the Independence Party, which will be an active force in the next election of 1910. The Republican vote of last week was undoubtedly increased by the disgruntled Haskellites.

The final election returns are not all available. Dewey, Beaver, Harper Texas and several other counties have contests. We have friends in all of these, among the candidates.

Now hold your breath while I write the joyful news. Ellis of Garfield Co. was defeated by 3 votes 11. I shout the glad tidings, exultingly sing 1 Three measly little votes, yet oh how full of meaning for us! I made two trips up into his district and held three open air meetings. Had arranged for others, but the floods came and made the roads impassable, so I hurried back to Headquarters. Open air meetings are the most effective way of working. It's the way to campaign!

3 votes! Isn't it glorious!

Don't think I am taking credit for them, but it is a comfort to think that perhaps Ellis will charge them to us.

To-day's Oklahoman has a partial list of returns. We get 28 friends out of those elected. This does not include the hold-overs in the Senate, nor the unreported districts. It is a curious study and perfectly maddening in some instances.

Garfield Co.	Building (Senate)	2789	Dem	} he was our friend and we lost by but 20 votes
	Sagefoot "	2769	Rep	
"	Ellis	1578	Dem	} a little work should have given us the Senator for this district. We went for the representative and were successful,
"	Stull	1081	Rep.	

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In Adair Co. the vote was Ridder 794
Howard 771 = our friend.

Cherokee Co distracted me. Couch 797 = our friend
Ward 798
You see we were beaten by but
one vote.

In Custer we lost by 47 votes
" Caddo " " 1,576 "

" Pottawatomie Co = Carlson 3576 = our friend
Milton Bryan 3574 = " "
Dulham 3568

This Co. is entitled to ~~three~~ candidates and we
get ~~them~~ by a very close vote. This is
the County in which Shawnee is located.
Mayer, jr is the Senator.

In Oklahoma Co (Oklahoma City's) we get the Senator
and one legislator. C. G. Jones is
also said to have declared he would
vote for our measure, but I am not
counting on insecurities. Intend to
under-estimate, rather than over-
count.

The above instances confirm me in my belief
that if we could concentrate our workers just

Before the primaries, and then at election time we could hold rapid-fire open-air meetings that would be productive of results.

As things now promise from a survey of the political field - if we get our referendum from the legislature - we can likely force a party endorsement from Democrats and Republicans. We have the Socialists - 25000 strong and every one a vote for us. The Demos and Reps are running neck and neck and the Reps are already charged with being favorable to us.

I shall expedite my affairs in the East and return to Okla. not later than Dec. 1st, for a month of hustling field work before the legislature convenes Jan. 5th.

Can't you come to Guthrie and help? I truly believe we can carry the legislature. I am ready to work all day and far into the night to get our measure through.

Milton Bryan of Shuman (our friend, see red-white-and-blue leaflets we printed last year) is rumored as the coming Speaker of the House.

Mrs Biggers came up from Marsden Thursday and we had an Ex. Com meeting Friday & Sat. She will come to Guthrie if possible, but I fear we cannot count on her. She is suffering excruciatingly with Catarrh of the stomach.

Mrs Leskey tells us how valiantly you stood for

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assistance from the Bus. Com. for Okla. We are
deeply grateful.
Election returns are that the Dispensary was
voted down. The Anti-Salooners are disconcerted
and at a loss what to do next. I am wicked
enough to suggest to them that in just such
instances the vote of women might be of value
to their cause!!

Kate Barnard announces that she is an anti
suffragist. Don't weep. She will be buried
politically with Haskell.

Really, Miss Clay, it was quite amusing toward the
close of the campaign, when the election-day "drew nigh"
to note how affable and anxious the candidates became.
One instance was Markwell. Democrat, and Labor Union
member. He was endeavoring to "carry water on both shoulders"
Hesitated to give us a reply. I used to meet him in
the Trades Assembly of which he and I were delegates.
First he never received our letter. Sent him
another. Then he forgot to reply. He always
assured me verbally, but I maintained that I

wanted his answer to put on file. ⁶ Two weeks before
election, when he began to think he would lose,
he visited the Club (cons) and made an address!
I told him we had been at work for Murphy in
Okla. Co. ~~for~~ since the primaries, but we would
do what we could at such a late day. Murphy
was elected. Markwell loses, but it may be a
lesson.

I expect to hasten back to Oklahoma, and
visit as many organized clubs as possible with
the hope of adding new members as well as
collecting the dues. This financial part seems
necessary, but really Miss Clay, I feel as though
I could do more telling work in the Labor
Unions. This would not give us money, but it
does gain us votes. My connection with the
Central Trades Assembly in Oklahoma City
gives me considerable prestige among the Labor
people.

Will write you from Centralia, Pa, and trust
you will drop me a word of advice.

Affectionately

Ida Porter Byrd

Oklahoma City, Okla., October 2/1908

Dear Mrs. Upton:-

Am much worried about the work that ought to be done to elect Mr. Stull in Garfield County. He is a suffragist. His opponent is Mr. Ellis, and it was Ellis who led the fight in the legislature at the time Mrs. Catt was in Oklahoma. Ellis is a fanatic. He boasted that he would talk against woman suffrage at the time of the Constitutional Convention, but, although he kept quiet on the floor, he voted against us. I think Owen influenced him to keep still. He may also have thought it prudent not to be too aggressive because of the Labor Union vote. He is a Union man strange to say. One of his political assets is his pair of horny hands. They are horny all right. We cannot afford to have Ellis elected. His opponent, Stull, has a fair chance to make the election. Garfield is a Republican county. It is entitled to three representatives. At the last election the vote stood 2904 Republican and 2365 Democratic, for Congress. The gubernatorial vote was 3237 Republican and 2219 Democratic. So you see that Stull has a good chance, but we must not trust it wholly. There are several other counties with like conditions.

Now I am going to take my life in my hands, and ask if you will not PLEASE let us have Miss Gregg for the two weeks just preceding election? If she could go into two or three counties, it would perhaps mean the victory for the Referendum. I hate to ask this, but the work ought to be done, and I do not see how I can possibly leave the Headquarters at this juncture. We need work now in the close counties. I wish you could read the letters that come to the office. Gracious, but a candidate is tame before election! And patronizingly haughty afterwards! Here are two letters taken at random:

"Broken Arrow, Tulsa Co.- I will appreciate any help you may be able to give. You are well aware what kind of position a candidate is in. He must not promise everything. Have received many letters from different organizations, but yours is the only one I have answered. Trusting you will understand my position, and I assure you that any assistance you may render will be appreciated."** W.P. Taylor."

"Pryor Creek, Mayes Co.- I answered you frankly my endorsement of woman suffrage."** I am in a desperate conflict, but expect to win. I wish to know my friends. What way have you to reach my county for good? --- P. Avery."

We have local women, who have promised to do what they can in local counties. This is a partial list:

Mrs. E.V. Cribbley, Pawnee Co.	Mrs. Addie Wilcox, Okla. Co. 2d Dist.
Mrs. M.A. Morrison, "	Mrs. Margaret Hunsinger, Garf. Co.
Mrs. Ella Caldwell, Comanche Co.	Mrs. Clark Lawton, Comanche Co.
Mrs. A.W. Holland, Kiowa Co.,	Mrs. Sue Uhl Brown, McIntosh Co.
Mrs. Emma Miller, Logan Co.	Mrs. W.M. Carter, Logan Co.
Miss Margaret Rees, Logan,	Mrs. A.W. Bennett, Logan
Mrs. Lucy Bell Davis, Muskogee,	Mrs. Lillie M. Allen, Caddo,
Mrs. Feuguay, Lincoln	Mrs. Straughen, Lincoln,
Mrs. Lila Lindsay, Tulsa.	

In this County of Oklahoma, the local club is at work, and Mrs. Figgers will attack the candidates in her county, Stephens.

CONGRESSIONAL: Three Republican Congressional candidates have

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declared for us,- McGuire of the First District, Greager of the Third and Hackett of the Fourth. McGuire is sure of re-election. The present congressmen in the Third District impolitically reflected on the Roman Catholics and the Negro. This will probably mean the election of Greager, since Davenport won by a very small majority last time,- 2748. The vote in that District was Republican 23,524 against Democratic 26,371.

The Fourth District is pronouncedly Democratic, so I do not think Hackett has the ghost of a show. His only hope will be the great re-action against the Democratic party brought about by Haskell's methods. Haskell is daily losing ground. Hearst is making great inroads in the Democratic ranks. I think Bryan will hold the National enthusiasm, but there will be a slump in State politics. The Republican United States Senate candidate, Dennis Flynn, will probably be kept off the ballot so as to leave the field clear for Gore.

The Oklahoma women will do effective work in their respective localities, but they do it as a side issue, and it cannot be left to them in the close counties.

I did hope to get to the Buffalo convention, but it seems perilous to leave the work here just preceding the election. Will you please give me some definite instructions in your next letter? Am I to close the Headquarters here November 1?

Mrs. Laskey and Mrs. Dunham are preparing to attend the convention. My yearnings and thoughts will follow them.

Sincerely

(Signed)

Ida Porter-Boyer

Woman Suffrage Association
— And —
Indian Women's Woman Suffrage League
Of Oklahoma

Woman Suffrage Association

President, Mrs. Kate H. Biggers, Marlow.
First Vice President, Mrs. N. M. Carter, Guthrie.
Second Vice President, Mrs. Minnie K. Bailey, Enid.
Recording Secretary, Mrs. Julia L. Woodworth,
Oklahoma City, 1128 North Hudson.
Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Julia Dunham,
Oklahoma City, 1147 W. Main Street.
Treasurer, Mrs. Adah F. Watson, El Reno.
Auditor, Mrs. C. S. Feunquay, Chandler.
Headquarters Secretary,
Mrs. Ida Porter-Boyer, Oklahoma City.



Indian Women's Woman Suffrage League

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 } Mrs. John Brown, Chickasha.

Headquarters—220½ West Main Street, Room 2

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA., Oct 15 1908

Dear Miss Clay:-

Our two Oklahoma delegates have no doubt found you by this time, and have told you all the Oklahoma news. We are nearing the crisis and every day preceding the election brings new interests and problems. The local women in the counties are doing some work, but the burden falls chiefly on the Headquarters, as you remember it did at the time our question was before the Constitutional Convention.

I will leave the Oklahoma information to be given you by Mrs. Laskey, and I will write about a conversation I had several days ago with a man from New Mexico. He was on his way East to purchase supplies for a copper mine and appears to be very well-informed regarding New Mexico. Tells me the population has increased 50,000 during the past year. I think he is a democrat. He says the contest will be very close between Larrazolo and Andrews for congressional delegate, but the chances are in favor of Andrews. Much of his information was along business lines, but I gathered some points of interest that you may care for. Population is approximately 300,000 and there are about 100 newspapers some few of which are printed in Spanish. The Indian and Mexican vote is very light, neither of these races taking any interest in politics. There are 25 counties, no large cities and the legislature consists of 4 democrats and 33 republicans. He thinks the democratic representation may be increased, unless the socialists interfere. That brings me to what Mr. Branstetter told me recently, that the socialists have already inaugurated a campaign in New Mexico and expect to push it vigorously. He is secretary of the socialist party in Oklahoma. They are doing, (in Okla) phenomenal work and may poll 30,000 votes. Have 19 National speakers in the field, in addition to a host of local workers. The Democrats are

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much alarmed.

Who is Mr. A.W. Corbett, referred to in the clipping? Evidently New Mexico means to enter Statehood with prohibition in its constitution.

(Two hours later. Began this letter just before dinner, and could not finish it. On my way back to the office I met Mr. Sweet of the Anti-Saloon League. I said "What are you Antis doing in New Mexico, or are you wholly absorbed in Oklahoma?" He replied " We are and have been working hard in New Mexico. Are going to get prohibition there." I laughed and said, " Don't you think you had better work for woman suffrage first, and avoid much of the evil you are unable to combat here in Oklahoma?" He said " Why of course we will help you, for I presume you have laid your groundwork in New Mexico." I evaded that and promptly asked about Mr. Corbet. Sweet does not know Corbett.)

I would not trespass on you now with this meager information about N.M. but I thought it might be of service if the Business Committee took up the question of trying to secure a plank in the Enabling act for this territory.

Best wishes for a successful Convention. Am following you in my thoughts and desires.

Sincerely Yours,

Ida Porter - Boyer

The Shirleys,
Denver, Colo.

September first, 1908.

Mrs. Ida Porter Boyer,
220 1-2 West Main St.,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Dear Mrs. Boyer:

I congratulate you on your pledging campaign
of legislative aspirants. I told you they were more plastic, and
I am delighted with your results.

I regret that I cannot go to Buffalo and have
so advised Miss Gordon. Your circular letter was most excellently
well done.

With best wishes.

Your friend,

R. S. Owen

Sep 11 1908

Dear Mrs. Upton:-

At last the much-desired list of nominees of the Democratic and Republican parties. I enclose those who have promised to support our Referendum. Please note I do not send any Socialists, as they have replied to a man,- the whole bunch of them.

I await instructions from the Business Committee. Will be ready to act on your decision, that is to stay by the campaign and work toward the election of our friends, or to close the work here on receipt of your instructions. It is a question in arithmetic and chances now, and your guesser is as good as mine.

Personally, I think we should fight it out. We have a splendid chance for success. The list does not represent all our strength, since some of our known friends have not replied, and I have not included hearsay names on the list. Under ordinary circumstances we could make a good guess relative to the prospects of election, but these cannot be foretold under the present political upheaval. I do not want to inject my enthusiasm and perhaps mislead you, but we never had one-half the chance to win that we have now.

The Labor Unions are more friendly, and the members are not so partisan as last year, when the democrats had a grip on the Federation. This hold is lost,- Hearst is getting it, and Populists and _ems are rallying to his standard. Haskell's opposition hurt us last year, this year we are hurting Haskell. Our arch-enemy, Murray is down and out.

An important point to consider is that if we do not carry this work to a finish, the Socialists will take it up where we leave off, and then it becomes a socialist measure. This will alienate every one of our other party friends. I am subject to your orders.

Did I tell you I was one of the speakers at the Labor Day celebration. It was a big affair. The star speech was made by Howard of Alabama who put in several good licks for woman suffrage. Miss Bernard followed and she of course, is too politic to refer to us. Then came my turn, and I gave them my best, suffrage from start to finish. It took very well, so my friends flatter me. I think it was because Mr. Howard had broken the ice.

The State Federation of Labor has appointed Henretty, Britton and Erlwine as a paid legislative committee to attend the legislature during its two months session. All of these men are suffragists. Henretty, and Erlwine are socialists. They will be of inestimable help in our legislative work. This is Little Pete Henretty, not the other Henraty who was a delegate in the Constitutional Convention. This latter is down and out even with his own party, and also with the Labor Unions. He is very dead.

I did not know that some of the Oklahoma women had written to you asking that I be retained here to complete the work. They never said a word to me about it until your reply came, then Dr. Gay told me all about what had been done. Their action must be ascribed to the intense interest this club has in the work, and not to any brilliant actions of

[Sept 11, 1908]

mine. By the way, something must be done to cause Ellis of Garfield County to mend his ways. He is a candidate for the legislature, and has aspirations toward the speakership. During the Con-Con, Mr. Owen silenced him, but his previous record was one of open aggression toward woman suffrage. If you will authorize me, I will go up into his county and hold some open air meetings in the towns of his district. His opponents are both our friends. It is lots of fun to speak from a dray wagon or a soap box. The meetings are so enthusiastic and informal and each one is worth a score of cut and dried affairs in a school house or church. A street-corner every time for effective work. I'm tired of being respectable. It's so innocuous. (Thanks Grover).

Sincerely Yours,

Ida Porter Boyer

(Copy)

Sept 11, 1908

Candidates Pledged to Woman Suffrage Referendum.

DEMOCRAT		COUNTY	REPUBLICAN	
B.H. Wittaker	Senate	Adair	Frank Howard	House
W.A. Durant ✓	House	Atoka		
A.P. Ross ✓	House	Bryan		
Walter N. Mansfield	House	Beaver		
		Caddo	J.P. Ward	House
		Carter	J.P. Taylor ✓	"
			Wm. Hutchinson	Senate
R.H. Couch	House	Canadian	Frank McColville	"
		Cherokee		
		Cleveland	C.M. Keiger	House
		Coal	C.M. Threadgill	House
		"	Charles T. Gibson	Senate
J. Elmer Thomas ✓	Senate	Commanche		
Peter J. Coyne	House	Craig	Frank Franklin ✓	House
		Creek	G.O. Heim	House
		Custer	R.M. Linville	House
		Ellis	H.P. Covey ✓	House
		Garfield	W.P. Lightfoot	Senate
			A.A. Stull	House
Sam Sanders	Senate	Haskell		
		Hughes	J.M. Vanderpool ✓	House
			Frank L. Warner	House
		Jackson	C.L. Kessler	House
J. Wright Sain	Senate	Kingfisher	E.D. Brownlee ✓	Senate
		Kay	E.B. Chapman	Senate
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	Senate	Lincoln	W. Jones	Senate
S.A. Cordell ✓	"	"		
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	"	"		
James Kirkwood	"	Logan	Harper Cunningham ✓	Senate
F.E. Derwin	House			
		Mayes	Philander Avery	House
C.B. Powell	Senate	Major		
W.M. Franklin	"	Marshall		
D.M. Shankoltzer	House	Nowata		
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
		McIntosh	A.J. Millsaps	House
		Murray	D.V.M. Wallace	"
		Muskogee	Edward Merrick	"
J.A. Markwell	House	Oklahoma	P.T. Cook ✓	House
			S.W. Murphy	"
		Okfuskee	Robt. J. Dixon	"
		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
J.Q. Nowell	Senate	Pawnee	E.M. Clarke	House
			J. Bonar	"
H.M. McElhany ✓	House	Pittsburg	Henry P. Robbins	House
Frank Huddleston ✓	House	Pontotoc		
W.S. Carson ✓	House	Pottawotomie	A.N. Thomas	Senate
Milton Bryan ✓	"			
G.P. Williams	House	Pushmataha	G.W. Richardson	Senate
C.S. Wortman	House	Rogers	John H. Bently	House
J.L. Paschal ✓	House	Roger Mills	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	
W.B. Anthony ✓	Senate	Stephens		
		Texas	J.S. Fischer	House
		Tillman	J.W. Eastman	"
		Tulsa	W.P. Taylor	"
		Washita	O.P. Kellogg	"
A.P. Vandeventer ✓	House	Washington	Clint Moore	"

(Continued)

[Sept 11, 1908]

J.E.Long	Senate	Wagoner	J.P.Calhoun	House
W.J.Parsons	House	Woods	H.F.Parsons	House
I.W.Hart ✓	House	Woodward	XXXXXXXX	

Those checked in red are candidates for re-election.

This list does not include the present hold-overs in the senate.

It is practically impossible to foretell the political complexion of the various districts. In former years, generally speaking the Oklahoma portion was republican and the Indian Territory side was democratic. This will not serve as a guide this election. Nationally all of new Oklahoma is enthusiastic for Bryan; the state politics are chaotic, since the reaction against Murray is extending to Haskell. Many of the Democrats are disgusted with Haskellism; the Cruce wing has not been reconciled, and Haskell will be buried deep in a political grave before many months have passed. The democrats are tumbling into the Hearst party; The Federation of Labor is suspicious of the present administration and things are unsettled. Bryan, Caddo, Carter, Garvin, Grady, Kay, Kiowa, Muskogee and Pittsburg counties are entitled to two representatives; Garfield and Greer also two; (these from specified districts). Lincoln, Pottawatomie and Logan to three delegates, and Oklahoma County to four.

These points to be remembered in analyzing the list.

The legislature consists of 109 members, the senate of 44.

One-half of the senators hold over, so there are but 22 to be elected.

Pottawatomie and McClain counties will probably elect socialists to the House. These will infringe on the Democratic preserves. The Republican vote will be much stronger than at last election, but it is idle to make statements, for there is no basis upon which to conjecture, as is ordinarily the case. The rank and file are disappointed, but the politicians have a strong grip. It has been very hard to get information. Mr. Flynn himself, is doubtful that his name will be given a place on the ballot for U.S. Senate though this would be a flagrant violation of our direct primary system.

Richmond, Ky.

Aug 20th, 1908.

My dear Mrs. Boyer,

I have read and re-read your letter and Mrs. Biggers' with the intensest interest. I have also studied the newspaper clipping, containing the partial list of the nominees. I have not yet received the complete list you promised me; but I see that I cannot judge by that alone the chances of our friends. So I am writing to ask you to make a careful analysis of the vote as soon as possible, and send it to me for my information. I think it would be useful to send it to all the members of the B. Committee. What I mean is, that we have no means of judging whether Democrats or Republicans are likely to win in any specified county. In Ky. we know whether a county will go Republican or Democratic almost as well before an election as after it, unless there should be a "landslide". Is this the case in Oklahoma, or are politics too new there to tell?

Also, I want your opinion as to how you regard the promise made in the letter to the candidates promising aid in case they declared for us. Do you think the candidates attached any value to that promise? Do you think our help could effect any thing material in helping their election?

Of course, I understand that you can only give an opinion on these subjects but I am very desirous to have your opinion, and though you are so busy, I beg that you will let me hear from you on these points as soon as possible.

The letter I wrote speaking of the possibilities of the Prohibs' helping us was written for the purpose of calling your attention to what allies we might obtain in the future; and was meant for you to consider at leisure, and not for present action. I see Mrs. Biggers rather fears the alliance of Prohibs. I hear from Oregon that they believe one half of the Prohib. vote went against us at this last election. Mrs. Puniway, however, is very antagonistic to the W.C.T.U. and the Prohibs. Besides, C.T. Wilson, the president

of the Anti-Saloon League is strongly opposed to us, and took the field against our amendment.

Well, my heart is always with you. I shall look for a letter very soon.

Cordially yours,

My dear Mrs. Boyer, I have read and re-read your letter and Mrs. Biggers' with the intensest interest. I have also studied the newspaper clipping, the partial list of the nominees. I find the complete list will be necessary for forming a judgment as to the hopefulness of the next legislature. I perceive, also, that we cannot judge entirely of the chances of our friends, as in some counties we have a democratic pledge, and in another a Republican. Now I am writing to ask you to make a careful analysis of the nominees, as soon as the full returns are in, and write it to me as soon as possible. I wish to explain: - In Ky. we know whether a county will go Republican or Democratic almost as well before the election as after it, unless there should be a "landslide". It is the case in Oklahoma, or are politics too new there to tell? This is why I want you to make the analysis, and not leave it to me from the reports. I am greatly gratified with the work which has been done, and I do not see how you could have saved any of the expense. However, our treasury is so depleted that the saloon work will no doubt cause another vote in the Business Committee very soon; perhaps not till the convention in October. We can go on with the work if there is a reasonable hope for success. If not, we have too much work in other fields to allow a valuable worker like yourself to labor on a barren hope. Our vote on the limit of expenses was definitely, and it is not optional with Mrs. Biggers to pay differently from what she has written. But if the work is hopeful some of the friends can and will raise special donations to add to the \$60.00 for incidentals. I wish to keep right on with the fight, if you and Mrs. Biggers consider it worth while. I wish, also, that you will give me your opinion as to how binding the promise is in the letter to the candidates, promising aid in their election if they pledge themselves to us. Do you think this promised help would amount to any thing appreciable if we continued to work?

Richmond, Va.
Aug. 19th, 1908.

Aug 11 1908

Dear Kentucky and Louisiana:-

Like the "gingham gog and and the calico cat which side by side on the mantel sat", your letters came from the mail-bag at the same time. I censure myself for not giving you more frequent reports on conditions here. It would have been very easy to have made carbon copies for you whenever I wrote Mrs. Upton a letter describing our situation. Do forgive my thoughtlessness.

I took alarm on the receipt of the last two letters from Mrs. Upton, -and feared the depleted National treasury might necessitate abandonment of the work in Oklahoma. This almost reduced me to despair, for we have worked things up to a pitch where the politicians of both old parties recognize us as factors to be considered, and it is amusing to see how they watch each other and us. This morning's OKLAHOMAN states: "Woman suffrage and the Jim Crow law will receive some attention. Mrs. Kate H. Biggers of Chickasha, president of the Oklahoma Woman Suffrage league, is authority for the statement that a strong effort will be made to get some recognition at the hands of the G.O.P. at this time and in the event of failure an appeal to the democrats will be made." This is a part of the reporters outline of the Republic-

[Aug 11, 1908]

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an State Convention which will be held to-morrow. We are wondering if said reporter picked up that information at the Republican headquarters, and if the party really are considering such an endorsement in their platform. We have not asked for it, but I do know they debated the feasibility last year.

The primary nominations have not been announced. Am enclosing a partial list. It represents less than one-half of what the final returns will be. That is, it represents 41 of the total 95 counties, and 14 of the flotorial districts, and the senatorial districts are also incomplete. As soon as the official primary returns are accessible, I will mail you the result.

The blue-pencilled names are our friends. It is a most encouraging showing. We ought to have the final returns this week.

I am sorry not to have been able to keep the office expenses within the maximum sum fixed by the Business Committee, but indeed it has been impossible to get along during the thick of the campaign on the \$ 60. per month. I did my level best; but it did not seem to be good judgment to let vital opportunities pass by, and not work to the utmost. I just can't play at working! To do sixty dollars worth of work and then sit down idly and let things slide, would make me tear my hair! Really I don't blame Mrs. Upton for thinking our expenses are too high, but they will not doubt be much less for the rest of the campaign. There were so many candidates for nominations, but now they have been wedded out. I did manage to keep within the \$ 60 limit the month of June when the expenses were \$ 52. 55.

The minimum expenses are approximately:

Office rent	18.00
Stenographer 1/2 time, \$6 per week	24.00
Janitor 50¢ weekly	2.00
Telephone	3.40
Desk rent	1.00
Typewriter rent	3.00
Total	<u>51.40</u>

There is no provision for postage, stationery, or incidentals. Some months have five weeks. Our postage amounts to about 150 to 200 letters per week/ or \$ 4.00; this means \$ 15 at least each month. Added to the \$ 51. 40 makes \$ 65.00 at the very least. So you see, the only way I can economize is by writing fewer letters. It is impossible to make Headquarters "go" without an extensive correspondence.

My own personal expenses are heavy. The first month I was here, I slept in the office. When the nights grew unbearably hot I just had to get a room up town.

Our expenses for July were abnormal. I enclose a copy, together of a paragraph of the letter sent Mrs. Upton, which I presume scared her. She wasn't any worse scared than I was when I had to write it!

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I do wish we could have a national officer with us in every campaign. It is just as bad to leave undone the things we ought to have done as to do the things we ought not to have done, and when there some one present to help decide affairs, it makes the work much easier. We never could have done certain things at Guthrie during the Constitutional Convention, if Miss Clay had not been present to sanction them.

Bill Murray has suffered a sore defeat. It will be Haskell's turn next. As soon as the Bryan enthusiasm subsides, the reaction against Haskell will set in.

Dennis Flynn called at our office last week. Fortunately Mrs. Stephens happened to be here, and she always makes such a nice impression on people. Mr. Flynn is Gore's opponent for the U.S. Senate.

He has our fervent wishes for success. Just THINK how good it would sound to be able to boast of this State having two U.S. Senators who are suffragists, and from both political parties. Mr. Bird McGuire has been re-nominated from the First Congressional District. Beat all his competitors by a big majority.

We have urged a large number of women to attend the sessions of the Republican State Convention. The Democratic Convention will be held about the 24th, and we shall get a number of women to attend that. This will let the politicians see that women are keeping tabs on their doings. It is all a part of the game.

Lovingly Yours,

Ida Porter Beyer

Aug. 11, 1908

Extract from letter sent to Mrs. Upton.

		July 16th, 1908
July 4 th	Rent office for July	\$ 18.00
	Rent Typewriter	3.00
	Mrs. Laskey expenses to Guthrie	2.00
	Printing 600 letterheads and circular letters for candidates	7.00
	Janitor	.50
	Stenographer 1/2 time	6.00
	600 stamped envelopes for candidates lettes	12.90
July 11	Stenographer	6.00
	Janitor	.50
	Telephone tolls	.75
July 18	Stenographer full week	12.00
	Janitor	.50
	OKLAHOMAN	.50
	100 stamped envelopes for general correspondence	2.15
July 25	100 stamped envelopes acknowledging favorable replies from candidates	2.15
	Five letters to friends in each legislative district, urging their support of the favorable candidate approximately 500 letters	10.75
	Stenographer full week	12.00
	Janitor	.50
	Ice for office July	1.00
		98.20

(This was my estimate to complete the month, as the letter was written the middle of the month. As a matter of fact the total charges I sent in were \$ 96.20 for the office.)

"Now what can you suggest? It would be fatal not to make the most of the present opportunity, and this is the very least we can do. This is a crisis. Whether we want it or no, the Socialists will make a campaign next year, for woman suffrage. It is their tenet, and they will not be deterred by anything we may say. If they circulate INITIATIVE PETITIONS it confines the movement to Socialists, and an Initiative petition requires a majority of all the votes cast at the election. If we get a Referendum from the legislature, the Socialists will give us their entire vote, and our Democratic and Republican friends will vote for it also. Besides a Measure referred by the Legislature requires but the vote on the Amendment, regardless of the number of voters at the election. We cannot retreat. I do not think I shall need a stenographer on full time after next week. Please let me hear from you immediately."

Richmond, Ky.

Aug. 6th, 1908.

My dear Mrs. Boyer,

I was so interested to get your letters of July 22nd and of Aug. 2nd. Mrs. Upton sometimes writes me a scrap of Oklahoma news, but that is not like hearing directly from you. It is delightful to see the good letters from the interviewed candidates. The first you sent I enclosed at once to Miss Gordon, as you requested. I suppose these last are later ones, and you sent them to encourage me. I certainly am very greatly gratified by your success in interviewing; and I shall look with hope to the result of the Aug. election. Whether we win or not, I shall feel that we have done good work by proving to the politicians that we are of some force and that we are in the field to stay. Since my campaigns in Oregon and Oklahoma I have come to the conclusion that we shall not win our cause on ethical grounds; but that the parties will give women suffrage (and that neither the women want it or not) when they can see their advantage in doing so. The problem we have to work out is how to make it to their advantage. The nearest approach I have seen so far seems to be in this pledging the candidates before election. I trust, in case the elections turn out promisingly for us, that we shall be able to keep up a vigorous campaign. You know that the funds of the National have run very low; and so there is a good deal of difference of opinion in the Board as to the use of the campaign in Oklahoma. For my part, I want to work there as long as there is reasonable hope of effecting anything. I believe you will be a good judge of that, after you hear from the Aug. elections. I hope you can find time to write me of the situation as it appears to you. Of course, I hear from Mrs. Upton after a time; but I am too eager to wait patiently.

I am now in Richmond, where I expect to be the rest of the summer. I can sympathize with your sufferings from the heat; I hope you have not mosquitoes

also to contend with, as I have.

I have just re-read your letter to Mrs. Upton. The situation seems to me to be hopeful. As you say, we shall know something when the nominations are made. If we have a chance, I certainly agree with you that it ought to be our Referendum, non-partisan; and incidentally, an evidence that we can get something done. Then, I hope we shall have the assistance of Labor people, Socialists; and I think, of Prohibitionists. The Prohibs have declared for suffrage in their platform. Now that they have power in Oklahoma, it has occurred to me that we should make a distinct demand upon them to show good faith for this plank by entering into our campaigns as helpers, and not merely as endorsers. Usually, they have thought they have done all incumbent upon them when they simply declare their belief in our principles, and never seem to think of helping with a dollar or a speaker. Hitherto I have been content with this attitude; but recently I have thought they might work in a campaign for us in a Prohibition state, where their alliance would help us more than it could possibly raise opposition to us. What do you think of this? If it seems a good thing to do, I believe I could interest my good friend, Mrs. Frances E. Beauchamp, in it. She is the President of the Ky. W. C. T. U., an able speaker, the Ky. member of the Prohib. National Committee, and one who stands high in the councils of that party. I also met Mr. Witham in my recent trip to Atlanta; he is the Georgia member of the National Committee of the Prohibs; a good suffragist, and one who seemed willing to do what he can for suffrage. All these Southern Temperance people might do us great good in Oklahoma, if we can launch a campaign. That John Temple Graves, candidate for Vice-pres. on the Independent ticket, is a suffragist. We ought to get some outside help when we next have a campaign. We have tried working alone; and an experiment of demanding assistance, as an evidence of good faith, from those who profess to believe with us, might be a successful departure from our previous method. Please remember me most affectionately to Mrs. Biggers. I am very grateful to her for her constancy to the cause. And with much love to yourself, I am
Your friend,

P.S. I am trying to set some work afoot in New Mexico; am not particularly hopeful, because our resources are so limited just now.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION
OF OKLAHOMA

President, Mrs. Kate H. Biggers, Chickasha, Ind. Ter.
First Vice President, Mrs. Minnie Keith Bailey, Enid, Okla.
Second Vice President, Mrs. N. M. Carter, Guthrie, Okla.
Recording Secretary, Mrs. Ida Wood Norvell, Wynnewood, I. T.
Corresponding Sec'y, Mrs. Jessie Livingston Parks, Enid, Okla.
Treasurer, Mrs. Anna Laskey, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Auditors { Mrs. Adella C. Stephens, Oklahoma City, Okla.
 { Mrs. M. Taylor, Perry, Okla.

INDIAN WOMEN'S
WOMAN SUFFRAGE LEAGUE
OF INDIAN TERRITORY

President, Mrs. J. R. Harris, Chickasha, Ind. Ter.
First Vice President, Mrs. Narcissa Owen, Muskogee, Ind. Ter.
Second Vice President, Mrs. H. L. Cloud, Wellston, Ind. Ter.
Recording Secretary, Mrs. Minnie Randolph, Wynnewood, I. T.
Cor. Sec'y, Mrs. Martha Phillips Atkinson, Chickasha, Ind. Ter.
Treasurer, Mrs. A. K. McKellop, Muskogee, Ind. Ter.
Auditors { Mrs. Mamie Porter Farnsworth, Muskogee, Ind. Ter.
 { Mrs. John Brown, Chickasha, Ind. Ter.

HEADQUARTERS: 124-6 WEST MAIN STREET

ROOM 407, FOURTH FLOOR

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.

Aug 24 1908

Headquarters Secretary, Mrs. Ida Porter Boyer, Oklahoma City, Okla.

State Lecturers { Dr. Frances Woods, Chickasha, Ind. Ter.
 { Miss Laura Gregg, Guthrie, Okla.



My Dear Miss Clay:-

Your letter arrived this morning. There never was anything like the political situation here. There is no precedent by which to prognosticate with any degree of certainty what the outcome will be. Of course one hears Republicans positively assert that this is a Republican state, and the Democrats with equal positiveness maintain that it is destined for the ranks of the solid South. It is all guess-work. There are election contests in four counties. The matter is in the hands of the State election Board, and they will make no report until these have been decided. The Fourth Congressional District is in doubt also. Meanwhile I have written into the counties where we are reasonably sure which candidates have been nominated. As soon as we can get reports from other districts I will hasten to line up some influence there. I have been unusually fortunate in getting help from the Labor people. Some months ago I was honored by election from the Woman's Label League to represent it in the Trades Council. This puts me in the inner circle of the Labor wire-pullers. The Secretary-Treasurer, the editor of the official organ and the Trades Council Secretary are my good friends and chums. The latter is a woman, - Mrs. Corder. They are all eager to help along the suffrage cause, and give me much confidential advice, as well as their lists. I have been using these lists in my letter writing for the past week. They are all the more valuable because they are the addresses of CONSTITUENTS. Speaking of Mrs. Corder, she will be a fine local worker for the future if we need one. She is a woman who attends strictly to business, is indefatigable, well-poised and knows how to do things. Her income is derived from her affiliation with organizations. She is secretary of a host of societies. The Maccabees, Daughters of Rebekah, Woman's Relief Corps, and such like. Each pays her a small sum as secretary, and the aggregate nets her a good income. Besides she is State Organizer for the Label League and this is very remunerative. She mentioned incidentally to me that she couldn't go to a certain Convention because she intended to go to Chickasha to organize a League there, and the two weeks work attendant would gain her two hundred dollars, and so she could not afford to neglect it. She gets five dollars for every charter issued and a stated amount for every member. I just quote these things to you because that kind of a woman has get-up in her, and is what we need in our work. Have reported this to Mrs. Biggers so that she may know how valuable Mrs. Corder could be in the future work of this State.

The official list of candidates or rather nominees, was promised last Friday. It failed to appear. Miss Margaret Rees

[Aug 24, 1908]

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promised to besiege the election Beard at Guthrie ^{and} send in the names as soon as she could get them. If I get no information in two or three days, I shall go to Guthrie. It will cost 1.50, but I believe I can get the information on file through Mr. Barret of the Agricultural Department. He is a personal friend, and a suffragist. I told Miss Rees to go to him, but she could not find him.

In ordinary times it is safe to predict how a county will go, - democratic or republican, but the counties here have no precedent. The highest vote cast for any one office last year was for that of Governor. Haskell received 134,162 and Franz 106,507; Ross, (Socialist) 9740. This year many of the democrats will vote the socialist ticket, and not a few republicans will return to the fold of that party; they voted " just this once" for Haskell because of prohibition. So you see there is a chance that the republicans may win, although I believe the Bryan enthusiasm will make itself felt at this coming election.

The moment I secure the list of candidates, I will checkover and mail it to you.

I cannot with truthfulness say how much value was attached to our promise to candidates. It does seem that they felt it of some help or so many would not have replied to letters of inquiry. Yes, I believe we have a certain amount of influence in elections. And it comes from surprising sources. I mean that we influence not the ignorant voters alone. Mrs. Stephens said last week that her husband voted for Owen at her request, although he is and always has been a republican? And Miss Gregg told me that during her work in Garfield and Grant counties last spring, (1907) that it was not unusual for men in the audiences to come to her and ask about the personal record of aspirants and who she recommended them to vote for. Mrs. Bezantson visited in Payne County several weeks ago, and feels confident she influences about twenty votes for our candidates there. These are but few instances, but they are significant of many others. IF WE CANNOT INFLUENCE IN HELPING TO ELECT MEN TO OFFICE, WE MAY AS WELL GIVE UP HOPE OF EVER GETTING THE BALLOT, FOR IT IS BY SUCH MEANS THAT WE CAN HOPE TO WIN ONLY.

Now in reference to alliance with the Prohibitionists. There is no Prohi. party here. The registered parties are Democratic, Republican and Socialist. The Independence Party effected its organization last week, but is too late to get on the State ballot this year. It is a serious menace to the Democratic party as its strength is gathered wholly from that source. This will be the opportunity of the Republicans. So much for the prohib. in this State. Generally speaking, I am afraid of the Prohibitionists. They are a minority everywhere, and because of this when they have measures pending will sacrifice us every time. They are not strong enough to carry us, so they are forced to save themselves by unloading us. We are far more useful to them, than they are of service to us. They use our " womanly influence " up to certain stage of the game, and they trade off on us. Did you notice how they modified their endorsement of woman suffrage in their recent platform? Of course that was done to eliminate the black woman's vote, but it is indicative of the fact that they are a politic lot of Ducks! I have always felt that woman

[Aug 24, 1908]

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suffrage was an expediency with them, not a principle. Oregon was scarcely a fair test however, of their attitude toward us, since Mrs. Dinnaway's aggressive fight on prohibition had much to do with their vote against us. But in other States I have never known the Prohibition party to place much emphasis on woman suffrage.

There IS an alliance I believe we can effect in Oklahoma, however. We cannot get the endorsement of the Democratic party, but I think we can get the Republican, Socialist and perhaps the Independence Parties to line up or declare for us. That would mean victory assured. The Independence party of Illinois has declared for us. I THINK WE SHOULD GO TO CADDO AND TRY TO GET HENRY W. DIFFENDERFER, WHO IS EFFECTING THE PARTY ORGANIZATION IN OKLAHOMA, AND URGE THAT HE MAKE SUFFRAGE A PART OF THE PLATFORM IN THIS STATE. We ought to be in the beginnings of things. I do not feel at liberty to go unless the Business Com. should authorize me to make the trip. HOW I wish you were here!

Now get out your kerchief and prepare to weep. Bill Murray is the dearest political corpse you ever knew. His finishing blow came at Shawnee last Friday, when his brother J.S. Murray was defeated for re-election as secretary to the Farmers' Union Board. That severs Bill's link with the farmers! Mr. Langston, of the Labor Union has just been in the office and gave me the details of the execution. The next victim slated for killing is Haskell. Sounds good doesn't it? I hug myself in glee! So you see our situation here is this. With Bryan out of the way in November, and a goodly sprinkling of friends in the legislature in January, we have a fine show for a Referendum. Then if we can effect an endorsement, or support from the three allies mentioned, we have every reason to hope for an Amendment. The Socialists will put in the winter working actively for us. They mean about 15,000 to 20,000 votes alone. Can't, oh can't you spend a month in Guthrie at the time of the legislature? Some one must be there. We can get this State, Miss Clay if we don't let our efforts slip away from us at the final stages.

Here's another weep for your kerchief. Your old friend Caudill was defeated for nomination. And I almost forgot to tell you that a candidate in Wagoner County, J.B. Puckett, thought to make capital of our letter of inquiry and instead of sending an answer to us, he published the entire circular letter in the COWETA COURIER, with a maudlin, gushing lot of comments on his virtuous political stand, and our efforts as an Association to get him to pledge himself before he went into office, and so tying his hands, etc. There was a whole lot of similar slush. Well, "Kate H. Biggers" wrote a reply and sent it to EVERY NEWSPAPER IN WAGONER COUNTY. It was published just on the eve of the primaries. It went broadcast through the State. Many of the papers abridged it and spoke of Puckett's having unwisely reckoned without his hostess when he rushed into print against brainy women. Puckett was everlastingly beaten at the polls! (You needn't weep into your kerchief here)

Hope to write again in a day or two.

Sincerely Yours,

Ida Porter - Boyer

Woman Suffrage Association
— And —
Indian Women's Woman Suffrage League
Of Oklahoma



Woman Suffrage Association

President, Mrs. Kate H. Biggers, Marlow.
First Vice President, Mrs. N. M. Carter, Guthrie.
Second Vice President, Mrs. Minnie K. Bailey, Enid.
Recording Secretary, Mrs. Julia L. Woodworth,
Oklahoma City, 1128 North Hudson.
Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Julia Dunham,
Oklahoma City, 1147 W. Main Street.
Treasurer, Mrs. Adah F. Wattson, El Reno.
Auditor, Mrs. C. S. Fequay, Chandler.
Headquarters Secretary,
Mrs. Ida Porter-Boyer, Oklahoma City.

Indian Women's Woman Suffrage League

President, Mrs. J. R. Harris, Chickasha.
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Auditors { Mrs. Mamie Porter Farnsworth, Muskogee.
Mrs. John Brown, Chickasha.

Headquarters—220½ West Main Street, Room 2

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.,

July 22 , 1908.

Miss Laura Clay,
189 Mill St.,
Lexington, Ky.

Dear Miss Clay:

I know you have not lost your interest in Oklahoma and so I send you, under separate cover, copies of some of the letters we are receiving from candidates for nomination and election to the coming Legislature. I know you will read them with the enthusiasm and the pleasure that each separate letter gave me as I opened the envelope. So far we have had but two flip^pant replies, the one from Manville, in Atoka County, and another which used our circular letter as a cheap device to gain votes through the newspaper columns. We are attending to that fellow all right, through the columns of the same newspaper, and furthermore intend to send our letter of reply to every newspaper published in his County.

The political situation here is most peculiar. We are practically running two campaigns, the one is the pledging campaign for the members of the coming Legislature, and the replies will give you some idea of what is really a hopeful situation. It is surprising to see how these would be Legislators grasp at straws before they are elected. I cannot help regretting that we did not

July 22, 1908

Woman Suffrage Association
— End —
Indian Women's Woman Suffrage League
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Headquarters—220½ West Main Street, Room 2

2-

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.,

put up such a pledging campaign before the Constitutional Convention in order to have enlightened some of those dense constitution-framers before they took their seats. I can't help but think it would have shortened Caudill's prayer considerably. I believe he would have had a hurry-up answer.

By the way, I had a telephone message yesterday from Mrs. Robinson, one of our members here in Oklahoma City,. She wanted to advise me that Mrs. Leeper was going to call on me this week. Mr. Leeper is one of the Constitutional delegates who voted against our measure, but Mrs. Leeper says he since regrets the action very much, and it is at his request that his wife is going to call at our headquarters. She wanted Mrs. Robinson to call with her and introduce her, and says that Mr. Leeper is now a convert to Woman Suffrage. While there is life there is hope. One by one these derelicts of the Political sea are floating our way. Perhaps we will sometime land a sea-Hogg.

Now the second campaign is a city campaign, which is most bewildering and puzzling because of the new primary and general election laws, which are conflicting. Oklahoma City elected a board of ten freeholders who have just finished drafting the new charter. Some weeks ago we sent a committee from our local Suffrage Club to appear before the freeholders and asked that women be given some

[July 22, 1908]

Woman Suffrage Association — And — Indian Women's Woman Suffrage League Of Oklahoma

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Second Vice President, Mrs. Minnie K. Bailey, Enid.
Recording Secretary, Mrs. Julia L. Woodworth,
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Headquarters—220½ West Main Street, Room 2 °

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.,

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recognition in the new charter. As a result the charter provides that two women shall be appointed to serve on the library board. The charter will be submitted for ratification at the coming general election, meanwhile both men and women are much exercised at the confusing registration. The one election law is the most *unfair* scheme to place the election in the hands of *the* dominant party, that I have ever known in any state. It provides for precinct inspectors who have absolute power over the registration books. They are privileged to go out into the precincts and hunt up electors for registration. It is openly charged that they failed to find any Republicans but are scouring the by-ways and highways that no Democrat escapes registration. They have no stated hours in which the books are accessible, but are usually kept in the coat pockets of peripatetic inspectors. In every precinct save one, women have been refused registration, upon the ruling that the precinct registration applies only to state and County offices and women are not eligible to vote for these. There is a factional fight between Mayor Scales, who is the outgoing mayor, and his would-be successor, Mr. Snyder, chairman of the Board of Freeholders. Mr. Snyder has caused to be issued a writ of mandamus to compel Mayor Scales to issue a proclamation calling for a vote on the city charter at the coming primary

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OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.,

August 4th. If this writ is sustained the City Clerk will open the registration books, and all men who want to vote for city offices will have to register for the second time with the City Clerk. The vital point about all of this registration is there will be no further registration for two years and people who fail to register now will ~~be~~ not be capable to vote until after two years have elapsed. After it is decided that the City books shall be opened for registration, we expect to poll a big registration of women. Our club members are now makinga house to house canvass. We have our Ward Chairmen and our Precinct Lieutenants, and everybody is very enthusiastic who is at all interested in the school vote. We have had two leaflets printed and these are being distributed and are receiving much favorable comment, and are practically reprints of the National leaflets.

We had a caller at headquarters who is a candidate for the State Senate on the Socialist ticket. He unhesitatingly states that there will be about forty per cent. of Republicans in the coming legislature. There is much dissatisfaction over the political conditions and many of the recent laws will be reactionary.

I forgot to say that this house to house canvass is unearthing many new suffrage members, and will be very helpful to the local club.

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OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.,

The Hearst movement will take very much strength from the Democrat ranks. This will be especially ~~per~~ perceptible next year.

I hope the National Suffrage Board is not losing sight of New Mexico. Both the Republican's and Democrat's National platforms endorse its statehood. There should be immediate field work, for I think they will ask for an enabling act this winter, and we must have some sort of an organization to uphold the demand that suffrage be made a part of the enabling act.

I took luncheon with Mr. Asp about two weeks ago and he seems very sanguine over the Republican reaction and augmentation after the Presidential election. He says this state is so thoroughly enraptured with Bryan that Bryan's Presidential campaign will have a perceptible effect, but the Republican chance will come immediately after the Presidential election. This together with the defect from the Democratic into the Hearst ranks will be pronounced. The Federation of Labor of this State has practically ~~seceded~~ seceded from Bryan to the support of Hearst. The State Federation convention will be held at Ardmore next Monday, July 27th. I think the Hearst ~~will~~ ^{boom} will materialize then, and ~~that~~ ^{there} will ~~be~~ ^{be} some political action. The Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Langston, has declared for Hearst, so has Mr. Smith, editor of the Labor Unit, and last, but not lease, the President of the State Federation, Mr. Bowerman, who is Pete Hanraty's successor.

[July 22, 1908]

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OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.,

I have been elected a delegate to the Labor Federation, and expect to attend.

Sincerely yours,

Ida Porter-Boyer

P.S. " Mr. Asp informed me that he expected to run for the Governorship next year. He enquired about you. Haskell and Gore will both be at the Labor Federation's Convention. Haskell to explain his recent championship of the Standard Oil franchise and Gore to press his re-election to the U. S. Senate. I am a regularly accredited delegate and have a few little plans of my own relative to that Gore!

I. P. B.

'Nether P.S. Will you kindly send the copies of candidates' letters to Miss Gordon, after you have finished reading them? Think they will interest her. I have mailed duplicates to Mrs Upton.

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OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA., May 5 1908

Dear Miss Clay:-

No doubt Mrs. Upton keeps you posted on the rather meager reports from Oklahoma, but I just thought I would like to talk to you this afternoon, and so ^{here} goes for a letter. There really is 'nt much to tell, for all the present work is purely preliminary, and the results will not be apparent until the primaries are held. There is more enthusiasm in the Oklahoma women since the school election. There seemed to be a general interest. Here in this city, the issue was one that appealed to all the women, — those in clubs other than ours. For several years there have been grave charges relative to the immoral relations of two of the directors, and two of the teachers. Both the latter are married women. Last year the two directors were asked to appoint other teachers in the places of the two with whom their names were unpleasantly associated, and it was also intimated that these directors would not be re-elected. They refused to read the handwriting on the wall, and so the indignant women in these particular wards, turned out on election day, and defeated the shameless directors. These directors were democrats, of course, for the democratic party has been dominant. There was nothing to do but to elect their political opponents, who were of the republican stripe. Now read the editorial from the OKLAHOMAN, if you have preserved it. Sent it to you some time ago.

Do you remember Brewer, the Indian who spoke against us at the Constitutional Hebate? His argument was to the effect that 90 % of the women in his district did not want suffrage; that it would take lovely woman out of her sphere; and that the sacred precincts of home were the divinely appointed places for women, and such-like original and soulful arguments. Well that sundowner of a Brewer, has been the first man to appoint a woman as one of the state whiskey sellers! Verily, there must be an overturning of ancient idols in his district. I'd like to know just what per cent of the women in his community approve of women in the capacity of rum dispensers; and if the sacred precincts of the bar room will attain an additional halo when the lady taps a glass of arf-and-arf? Or when the guardian of female virtue received his divine communication that high-balls and cocktails were religiously pleasing and womanly duties!

YOU MAY HAVE BREWER. NONE OF HIM FOR ME, THANK YOU.

Mrs. Stephens and I were down at Guthrie last week. Had a nice long talk with Ballard who introduced the Presidential suffrage bill. He's a noble looking man. Says there was enough sentiment in the House to pass the bill, if the chairman of the committee had not

[May 5, 1908]

-2- arbitrarily killed it in committee.
Frankly told Ballard that he did not dare let it come before the
Committee of the Whole. Is n't that exasperating?

The best agitation we have had, has been the effort for woman suffrage in the new charter for Oklahoma City. There is some conflict of opinion on the constitutionality, but to-day's OKLAHOMAN states the Senator Stafford has introduced a bill providing for the power ~~for~~ cities to decide for themselves what provisions shall be contained in the respective charters, and all provisions, when passed upon by the voters and signed by the governor shall be operative.

Have written for a copy of the bill.

Greer county has over 400 cases of small pox, we have quite a number of patients here in the pest house, and are building an addition to accommodate the new patients reported daily. You remember we had a like epidemic last year at Guthrie.

Sincerely Yours,

Ida Porter Boyer

#189 North Mill St., Lexington, Ky.,
#189 North Mill St., Lexington, Ky.,

May 11th 1908
May 11th 1908.

Mrs. Ida Porter-Boyer,

Oklahoma City, Okla.

My dear Mrs. Boyer,

I am so pleased to get your letter of May 5th. that I am going to encourage you in your good way by answering pretty promptly.

I am glad to see that you are succeeding in arousing an agitation for municipal suffrage; not that I greatly care for municipal suffrage in itself, but because it is useful to keep the ball rolling. I have just received a letter from Miss Shaw, after her trip through the South; she finds much suffrage sentiment in Texas and some fine women suitable for leaders, though she has not yet gotten them into the leadership. I think some of the Texas sentiment comes from our campaign in Oklahoma. I am truly sorry to see that Oklahoma has a dispensary law, how is that going to affect the prohibitionists towards Woman's Suffrage? and does it increase the saloon power or not? I had trusted that the saloon power was broken in Oklahoma even if illicit selling still went on, I remember with so much dread the campaign made against us by liquor men in Oregon.

We have been having an unprecedented wet spring, such continuous rains that the farmers have been unable to do their plowing. I have not been over to my farm but expect to go early in June.

When you next write tell me about Mrs. Biggers and

when you write to her please give her my very best love; I do admire and esteem her so much.

Wishing you great success in your Oklahoma work,

I am,

Cordially yours,

Dict.