

6d - Lockwood for President



In 1879, after a pitched battle, lawyer Belva Ann Lockwood became the first woman permitted to practice before the U. S. Supreme Court. Active in the suffrage movement, Lockwood refused to be thwarted by hurdles placed in front of her because of her gender.

"If women in the States are not permitted to vote, there is no law against their being voted for," Lockwood reasoned. And in 1884, she accepted the U. S. presidential nomination of the renegade Equal Rights Party. Lockwood knew she had no hope of winning the election, but she saw the symbolic significance of her candidacy and launched a vigorous campaign. In the end, she won more than 4,000 male votes and earned the electoral vote in Indiana. Following is an excerpt from her party platform.

In the furtherance of this purpose I have to say that *should* it be my good fortune to be elected, and should our party with its grand platform of principles be successful in the contemplated election, it will be my earnest effort to promote and maintain equal political privileges to every class of our citizens irrespective of sex, color or nationality, and to make of this great and glorious Country in truth what it has so long been in name, "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

I shall seek to insure a fair distribution of the public offices to women as well as to men, with a scrupulous regard to civil service reform after the women are duly installed in office. ...

I am opposed to monopoly in the sense of the men of the country monopolizing all of the votes and all of the offices, and at the same time insisting upon having the distribution of all of the money both public and private. ...

I am opposed to the wholesale monopoly of the judiciary of the country by the male voters. If elected, I shall feel it incumbent on me to appoint a reasonable number of women as District Attorneys, Marshals and Judges of United States Courts, and would appoint some competent woman to any vacancy that might occur on the United States Supreme Bench. ...
