

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Q: Dora Fellows Haynes was born in 1859, and married Dr. John Randolph Haynes in 1882. During those times, what opportunities did a woman in Los Angeles have in participating in politics and public issues?

In 1887, Dora Haynes and the Haynes family, seeking a healthier climate, relocated to Los Angeles, where Dora joined a number of prominent women who were active in politics and leading the fight for women. These women, often referred as “Clubwomen,” had developed their own political culture focused on reform. They were no doubt encouraged by the example of Mrs. Belva Ann Bennett Lockwood, who ran for President of the US in 1884 and 1888 on the National Equal Rights Party ticket, the first woman to appear on the Presidential ballot.

These Los Angeles Clubwomen took on the role of municipal housekeepers. In that capacity, they actively discussed, lobbied, and raised money to fund and support their recommended reforms.

By 1909, Dora Haynes’ reputation and her success as a leader in the suffrage movement in Los Angeles had attracted the attention of the *Los Angeles Times*. Unfortunately for the *Times*, it was opposed to Mrs. Haynes’ work.

In 1919, she hosted a meeting of suffragists where the plan to found a branch of the League of Women Voters for Los Angeles was discussed and approved. She was subsequently elected its first president.

The success of the Clubwomen in Los Angeles was due in part to their close collaborations. For example, in addition to Dora Fellows Haynes (co-founder of the Haynes Foundation), four of the nine members of the first Board of Trustees for the Haynes Foundation were women: Florence Lindley, Anne Mumford, Ethel Richardson Allen, and Mary Simons Gibson.

The credentials of these four women were impressive. Anne Mumford graduated from Vassar College in 1910 and served for 24 years as a Trustee on the Board of Occidental College (1930-1954). Mary Gibson was a commissioner on the California Commission on Immigration and Housing (1913-1922) and a leader in educating foreign-born women as a key step in Americanizing foreign families. Ethel Richardson Allen was an advocate for adult education in California.

CITATION

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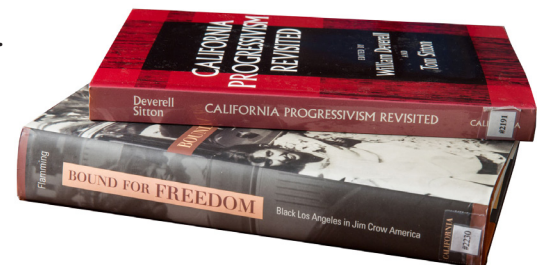
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She served on the California Department of Education as the Assistant Superintendent for Americanization (1919-1926) and later became the first chief of the new Division of Adult Education in the California Department of Education (1926-1930).

Florence Haynes Lindley, John's younger sister by three years, also became a trusted confidante of Dora and freely offered advice and support. Florence was married to Walter Lindley, an important and politically conservative physician. She helped to found the California Hospital with her husband and was active in medical and other philanthropy. Florence shared the humanitarian political views of Dora and John and, with Dora, belonged to the same civic- and social-reform women's clubs in Los Angeles.

Dora Haynes lived to see the goals of the women's suffrage movement become law. Dora Haynes was 52 years old in 1911 when voters in California prohibited sex-based restrictions on voting. And Dora was 61 when the Nineteenth Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified in 1920. Dora passed away in 1934, devoting much of her wealth to the work of the Haynes Foundation.

Looking back, we can get a sense for Dora's interests and the interests of the Haynes Foundation's Board of Trustees from the first three research grants the Board awarded in its founding year of 1926. The grants were directed to the American Indian Defense Association (general support), the American Association for Labor Legislation (prevention of mine accidents) and UCLA (a study of California state taxation).