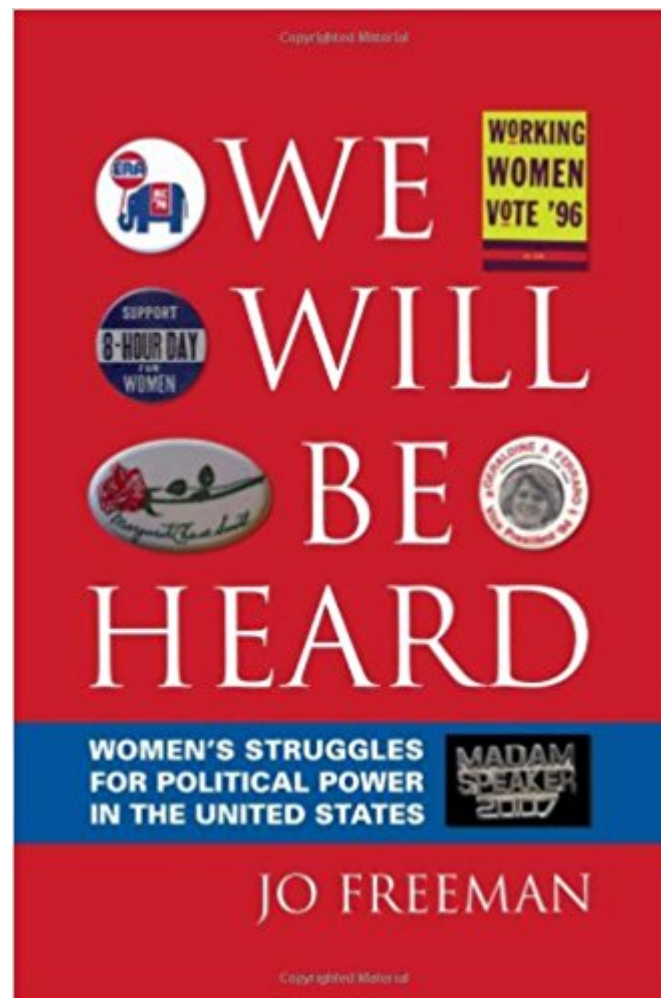




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We Will Be Heard: Women's Struggles For Political Power In The United States



Synopsis

In *We Will Be Heard*, noted political scientist Jo Freeman chronicles the struggles of women in the United States for political power. Most of their stories are little-known, but Freeman's compelling portrait of women working for change reminds us that women have never been silent in the political affairs of the nation. From J. Ellen Foster's address to the 1892 Republican Convention to Nancy Pelosi's 2007 election as the first female Speaker of the House, women have worked to influence politics at every level. Well before most could vote, women campaigned for candidates and lobbied to shape public policy. Men welcomed their work, but not their ideas. Even with equal suffrage women faced many barriers to full political participation. The fifteen case studies of women's struggles for political influence in this book provide the historical context for today's political events. Starting with an overview of when and why political women have been studied, the three sections of the book look at different ways in which women have broken barriers, practiced politics, and promoted public policy. These engaging and accessible stories are even more important in today's political climate, when a woman can finally be a front-runner in a presidential race. Readers of all political stripes will enjoy the history behind modern politics in this story of women struggling to make their voices heard.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This volume is written by one of the founders of the women's movement and an influential author in women's studies. Always a scholar-activist, Jo Freeman brings her own experiences to bear in this

personal reflection on various events in the history of political women in the U.S. Fifteen selections combine previously published writing with newer material, such as an epilogue on the election of Nancy Pelosi as the first woman Speaker of the House. In the first section, covering up to 1920, we learn some 'forgotten' historical details, so that broad, sweeping generalizations about the lack of women in U.S. politics can no longer be made. The second section on breaking barriers features discusses the over 50 women who have run for the office of President, as well as some other women 'firsts.' The third section on public policy covers familiar ground such as the equal rights amendment and comparable worth. This volume provides the insight of a fervent participant in politics, rather than dry academic theories, but is more of an enjoyable collection of historical essays than a standard textbook.

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