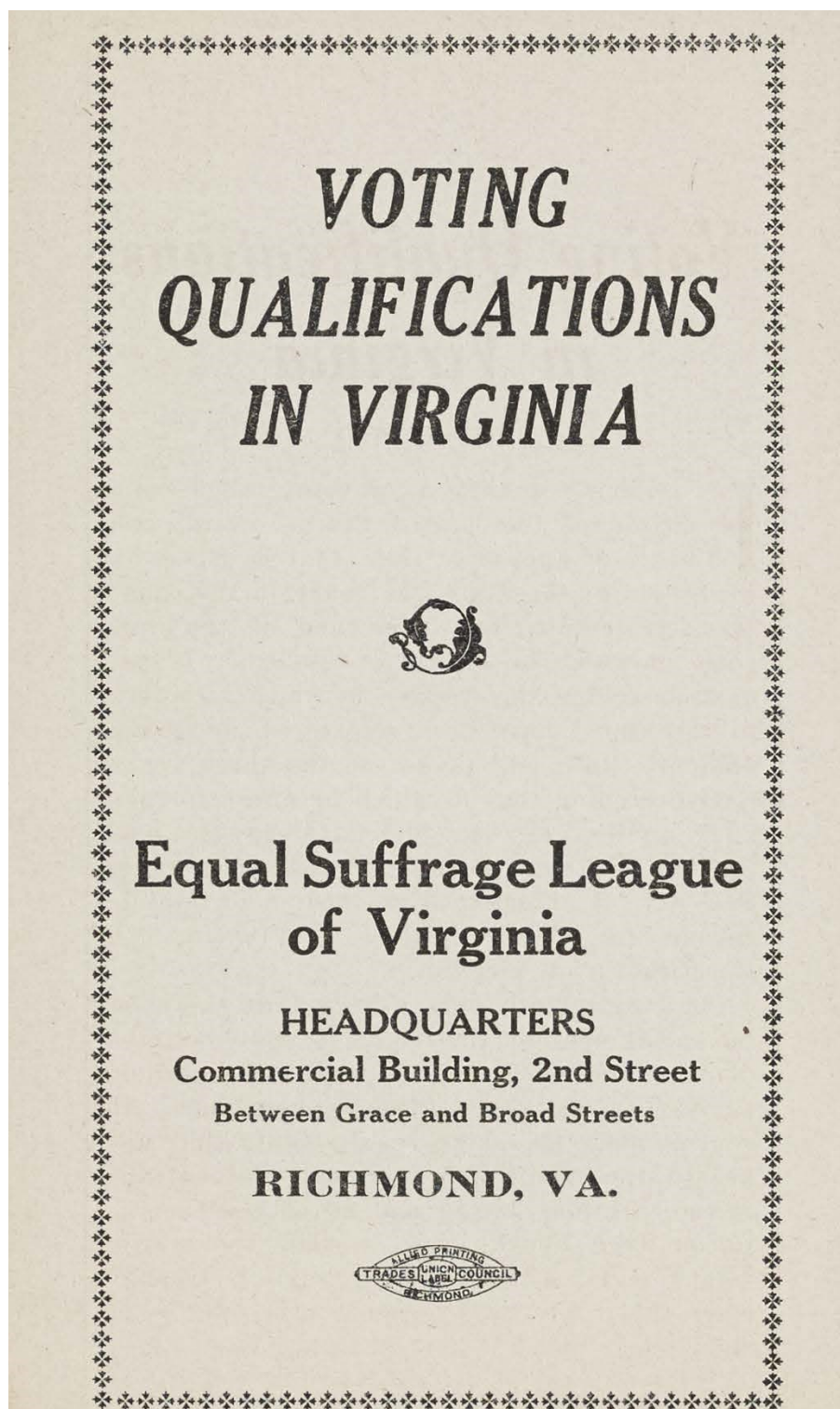


Voting Qualifications in Virginia, Equal Suffrage League Pamphlet, 1910s (page 1 of 4)



Citation: *Equal Suffrage League of Virginia, Voting Qualifications in Virginia, ca. 1910s, Equal Suffrage League of Virginia Records, Accession 22002, Library of Virginia.*

Voting Qualifications in Virginia, Equal Suffrage League Pamphlet, 1910s (page 2 of 4)

Voting Qualifications in Virginia

IN order to qualify as a voter every male citizen of the United States, twenty-one years of age, must show that he has been a resident of the State two years, of the county, city or town one year, and of the precinct in which he offers to vote thirty days, next preceding the election in which he offers to vote, must have been registered, and have paid his State poll taxes for the three years next preceding that in which he offers to register (unless he has just attained his majority), and must be able to read and write. See Art. II, Elective Franchise and Qualifications for Office, Sections 18, 19 and 20, Constitution of Virginia.

Suffragists are only asking that there be no abridgment of the right to vote because of sex, and when this is granted, in order to qualify as voters, the women must, of course, meet the same requirements that apply to the men. When women are enfranchised, Sections 18, 19 and 20 of the Constitution (see above) will contain the words "and female" after the word "male," "or she" after the word "he," "or her" after the word "his."

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Voting Qualifications in Virginia, Equal Suffrage League Pamphlet, 1910s (page 3 of 4)

We find it necessary to print these facts because the anti-suffragists are attacking the expediency of enfranchising Virginia women on the ground that the negro woman's vote will constitute a menace to white supremacy.

In upholding this contention they fail to state that the same laws governing the elective franchise and qualifications for office under which men qualify as voters must apply to women, and as these laws restrict the negro man's vote; it stands to reason that they will also restrict the negro woman's vote.

The following statistics may be verified by reference to the United States census of 1910:

(VIRGINIA)

White males, voting age.....	363,659
Negro males, voting age.....	159,593
White females, voting age.....	355,000
Negro females, voting age.....	164,000

The white women of voting age, therefore, in Virginia, outnumber the negro men and women of voting age by 31,407. It should also be borne in mind that the negro illiteracy is rated at 22%, and the white illiteracy at 8%.

It should also be noted that the Constitution of Virginia provides for a further restriction of the vote whenever it may be found necessary in any county, city or town of this State. See Art. II (Elective Franchise and Qualifications for Office), Sec. 30, Constitution of Virginia:

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"The General Assembly may prescribe a property qualification not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars for voters in any county or subdivision thereof, or city or town, as a prerequisite for voting in any election for officers, other than the members of the General Assembly, to be wholly elected by the voters of such county or subdivision thereof, or city or town; such action, if taken, to be had upon the initiative of a representative in the General Assembly of the county, city or town affected; provided, that the General Assembly in its discretion may make such exemptions from the operation of said property qualification as shall not be in conflict with the Constitution of the United States."

The above further qualification would apply to women as well as to men should the equal suffrage amendment be adopted.



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