In 2012, we commemorated the centennial of Oregon women's achievement of the right to vote. But the passage of the November 5, 1912 ballot measure did not settle the question of how and in what ways women could participate. Documents from the Attorney General's Correspondence at the Oregon State Archives provide a window into the challenges of implementing votes for women across the state. Dozens of county clerks, city officials and concerned citizens wrote to Republican Attorney General Andrew J. Crawford in the weeks and months after the victory to ask him to advise or render an opinion on a variety of questions relating to women's new political role. The letters reveal specific local conflicts and concerns about women's new voting status and more general attitudes about women.

Many officials asked if women could vote in early December city elections. Crawford decided that women had the right to vote effective November 5, 1912 when the ballot measure passed, and did not have to wait for Governor Oswald West's proclamation, so they could vote in city elections. W.A. Maxwell of Union, Oregon felt that the logistics of women voting were "beyond [his] comprehension" and sought advice. E. C. Peery of Scio told Crawford:

"It is the purpose of a number of our women in Scio to vote at the coming city election to be held Monday, Dec. 2nd. Some fear is expressed that the judges of the election [sic] are not intending to allow them to vote on the ground that they have never been proclaimed legal voters. The majority of our citizens want the women to vote, and we would like a statement from you relative to their right to vote in this election."

And Stella M Leslie, of Lafayette, Oregon and a member of the Yamhill Woman's Christian Temperance Union wrote to Crawford to complain about graft. "Several of the women of this place wish me to write you for information in regard to registration."

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