



# The Voice that Won the Vote: How One Woman's Word Made History

written by Elisa Boxer

illustrated by Vivien Mildenerger

## Book Description

Preschool & Elementary  
history & biography

Febb Burns made history in August 1920, when she wrote a letter to her son Harry encouraging him to vote in favor of women's suffrage in the Tennessee State Senate. Senator Burns' tie-breaking vote led to the ratification of the 19th Amendment, and that one vote was the result of the words of his mother.

## Discussion Questions/Activities

- When has an adult in your life given you advice that helped change your mind about something?
- When have you used your voice (or your pen) to speak up about something that matters to you?
- By 1919, millions of women were already voting in the US. Afterwards, many still could not vote. Do you agree or disagree with the statement at the end of the book: “the woman who, without speaking a word, gave all women a voice”?
- Write a story about how the senators and representatives in Utah worked to ratify the 19th Amendment.

## Utah Connection



Elizabeth Hayward  
courtesy of Emily Wessman

Utah women had already been voting for many years by the time Febb Burns wrote her important letter to her son. In fact, Utah state senator Elizabeth Hayward, and state representatives Anna T. Piercey, Dr. Grace Stratton Airey, and

Delora W. Blakely were serving in the state legislature when Utah ratified the 19th Amendment in October 1919.

When Utah ratified the 19th Amendment, John E. Heppler was the speaker of the state House of Representatives. He requested that Anna T. Piercey preside over the House session when ratification took place, likely due to the influence of his mother, Lucy Heppler, a long-time Utah suffrage leader.



illustration by Brooke Smart