

MARTHA HUGHES CANNON

1857-1932



When Utah became a state in 1896, its Constitution restored Utah women's voting rights and allowed women to hold office. That year, Utahns elected Dr. Martha "Mattie" Hughes Cannon as Utah's—and the nation's—first female state senator.

- Worked as a typesetter at the *Woman's Exponent* and later earned four degrees in chemistry, medicine, pharmaceuticals, and public speaking
- Set up a private medical practice and became the resident physician at the woman-run Deseret Hospital in Salt Lake City
- Testified about women's suffrage to U.S. congressional committees and was a featured speaker at the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago
- Authored Utah's sanitation laws, passed several legislative bills revolutionizing public health, and was a founder and member of Utah's first State Board of Health

