



# WHITE GLOVE WAR

*A woman's place is...?*

In 1972, liberal Congresswoman Pat Schroeder believes passage of the Equal Rights Amendment is a done deal until she runs into conservative Phyllis Schlafly and her crack team of political operatives --

*— a band of bread-baking, white-gloved ladies with a secret recipe to get male legislators to kill the bill.*

Inspired by real women and a true story.



1960s  
America



WELCOME TO THE  
MISS AMERICA  
CATTLE  
AUCTION



Freedom  
Trash  
Can

BREAK  
THE DULL  
STEAK  
HABIT



RIB

ROUND

September 7, 1968  
Atlantic City, NJ

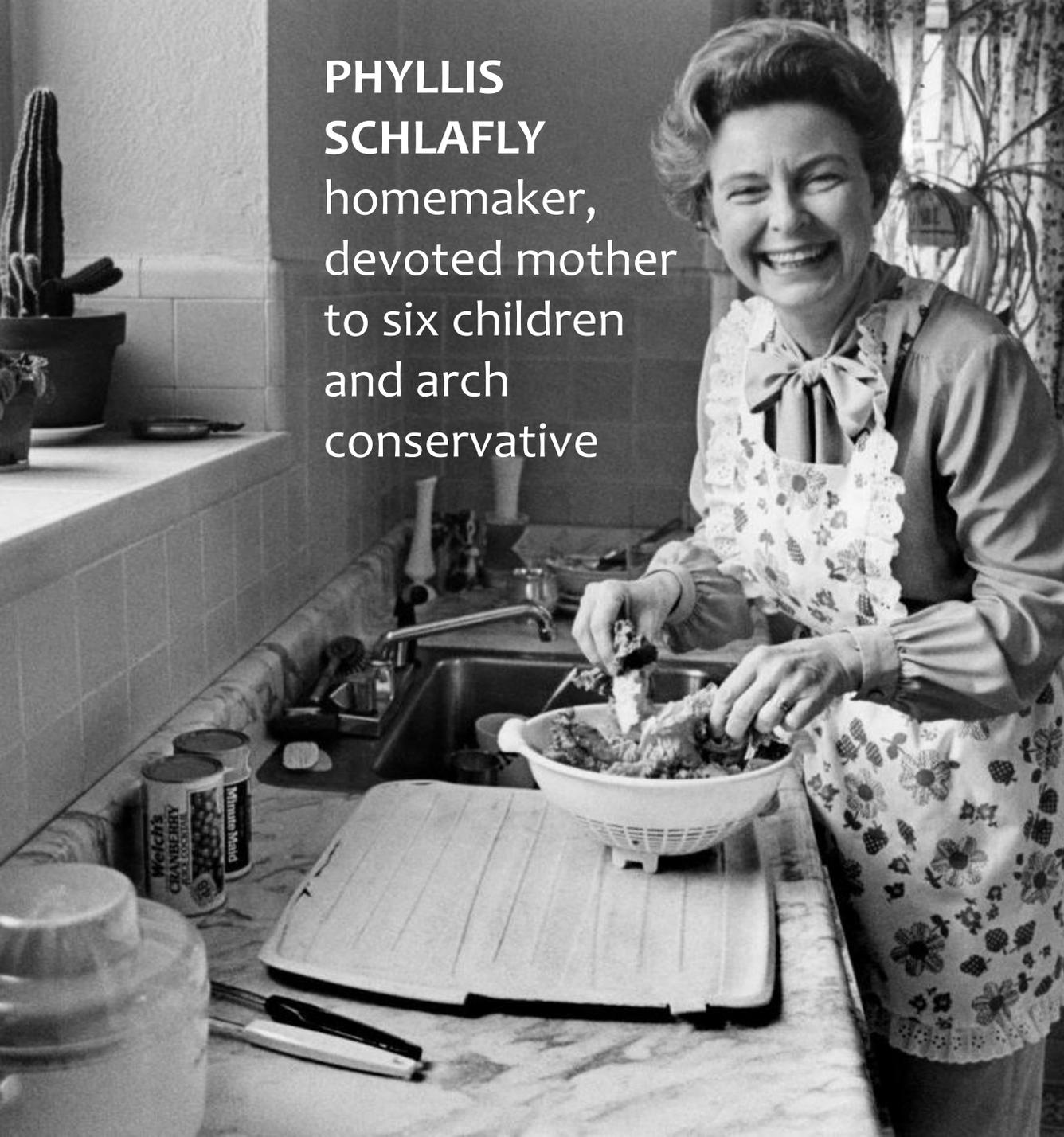


The Miss America Protest captures the nation's attention.

Cameras roll as women toss "objects of oppression" into the Freedom Trash Can.

**PHYLLIS  
SCHLAFLY**

homemaker,  
devoted mother  
to six children  
and arch  
conservative



Phyllis sees a woman's place as protector of the home and family.

She and her attorney husband, Fred, are wealthy, connected politically, and horrified by the "women's libbers."

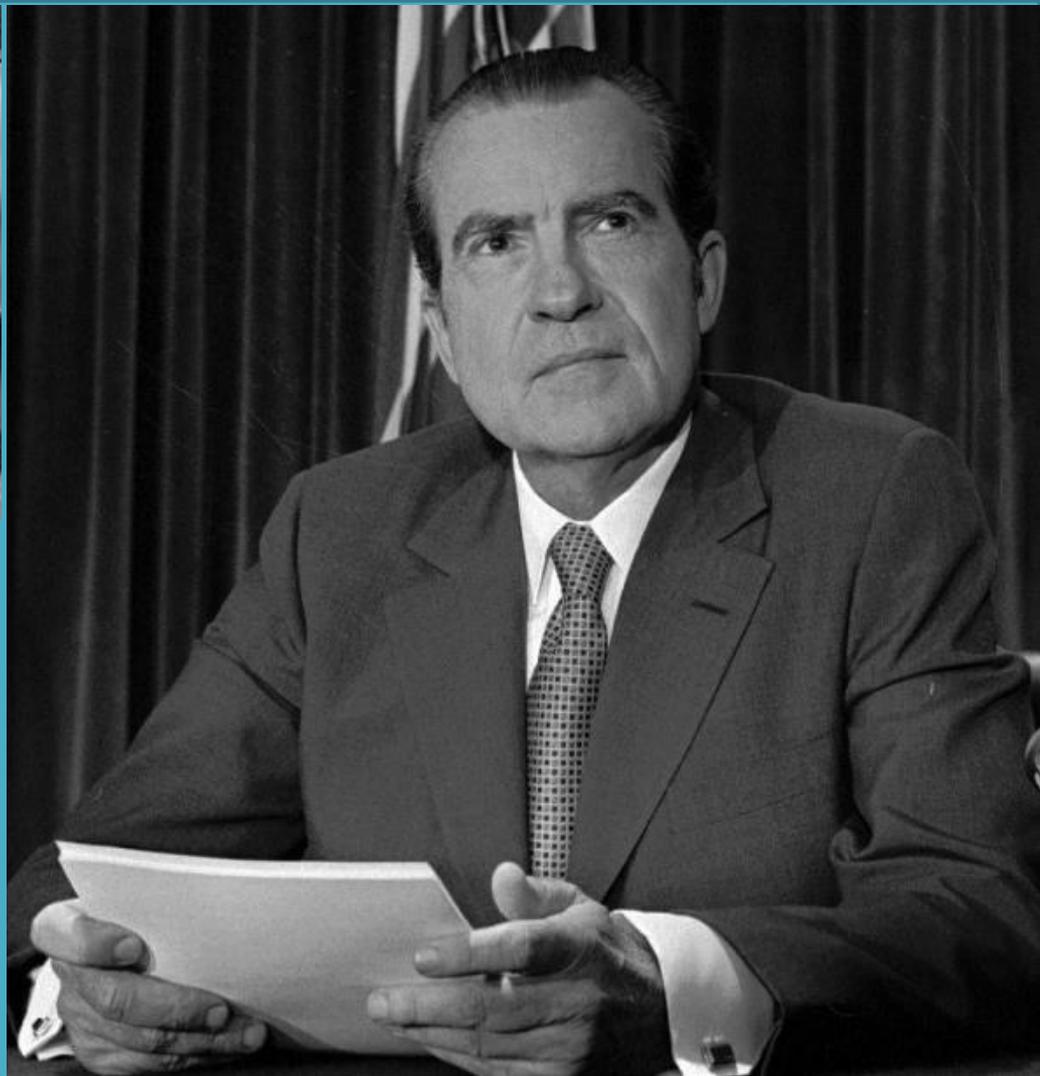
To Phyllis, the Women's Liberation Movement is as big a threat to the American way of life as the spread of Communism.

She supports the war in Vietnam and favors staying "in it to win it."

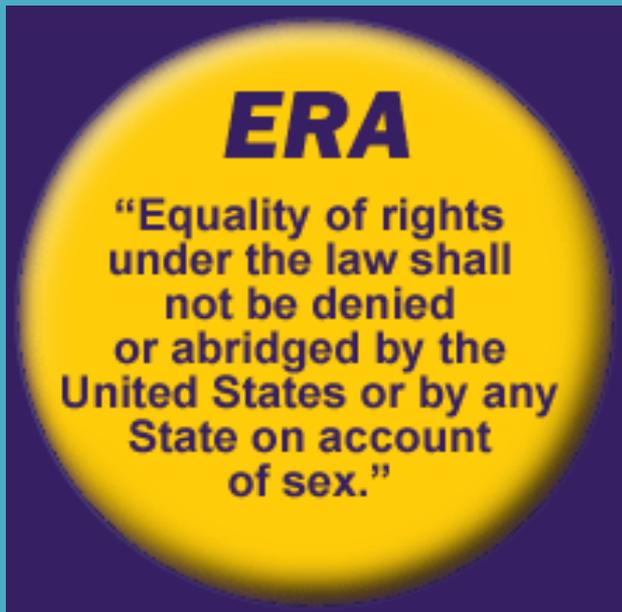




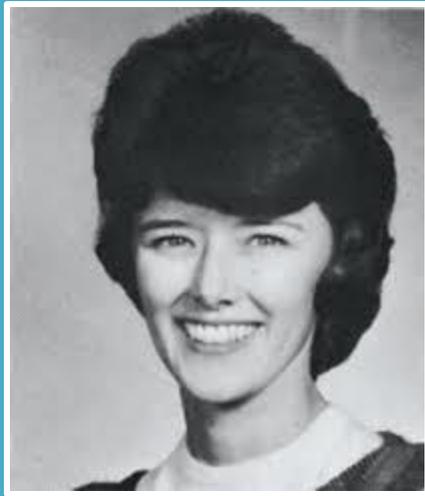
Gloria Steinem emerges as a key activist.  
Civil rights laws pass Congress.



In 1972 Congress approves the Equal Rights Amendment . Within months, the amendment is only 3 states short of the required 33. Both Parties, President Nixon, business and religious leaders lend strong support.



# Patricia Scott Schroeder – Young Mom, Two Young Kids, Challenges Incumbent in a Solid Republican District



1964  
Pat Schroeder  
Graduates  
Harvard Law  
School



1971  
Husband talks  
her into running  
for Congress

*“It was very frustrating, when I announced for Congress, the newspaper said, ‘Denver housewife runs for Congress.’ I mean they didn’t even put my name in. And I kept thinking, ‘Well, yeah, I’m a housewife, but I’m also a Harvard lawyer. I also work at a university. I’m a hiring officer.’ So it was really a problem from day one ....”*

Pat's campaign gets a boost from feminist icon Gloria Steinem

**WHEN PEOPLE ASK  
ME WHY I AM  
RUNNING AS A  
WOMAN, I ALWAYS  
ANSWER, "WHAT  
CHOICE DO I HAVE?"**

Pat Schroeder  
American Politician

QUOTEHD.COM



No way she can win...

BUT SHE DOES!

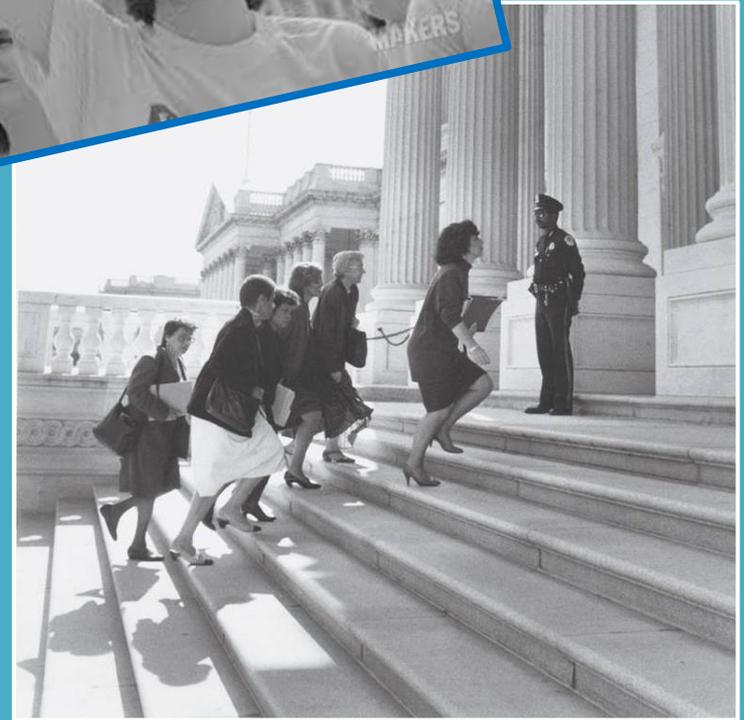
November 7  
1972

Her Pro-ERA / Anti-War stance sends her to Congress (Age 32)



But Phyllis sees an ERA disaster ahead for families: unisex bathrooms, gay marriage, and women in combat. She creates S.T.O.P. ERA

# Despite frustrations, Pat finds powerful self-expression through her Congressional office

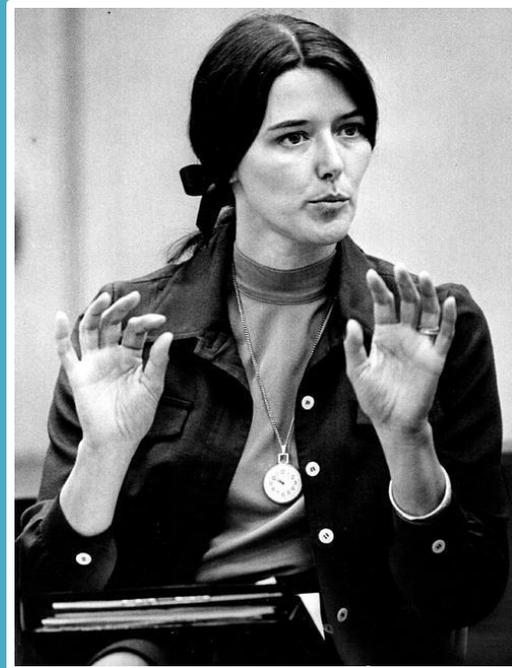


The only Congresswoman with young children, she's the focus of National Mobilization for Working Mothers, a protest against Nixon cuts to social programs.

Meanwhile, Pat is part of 1973 Historic Firsts:  
A Black man and a woman appointed to the House Armed  
Services Committee...



Congressman Ron Dellums  
(D-California)



The Committee Chair is not pleased.

# Pat Discovers Racism and Sexism Flourish in the Halls of Congress

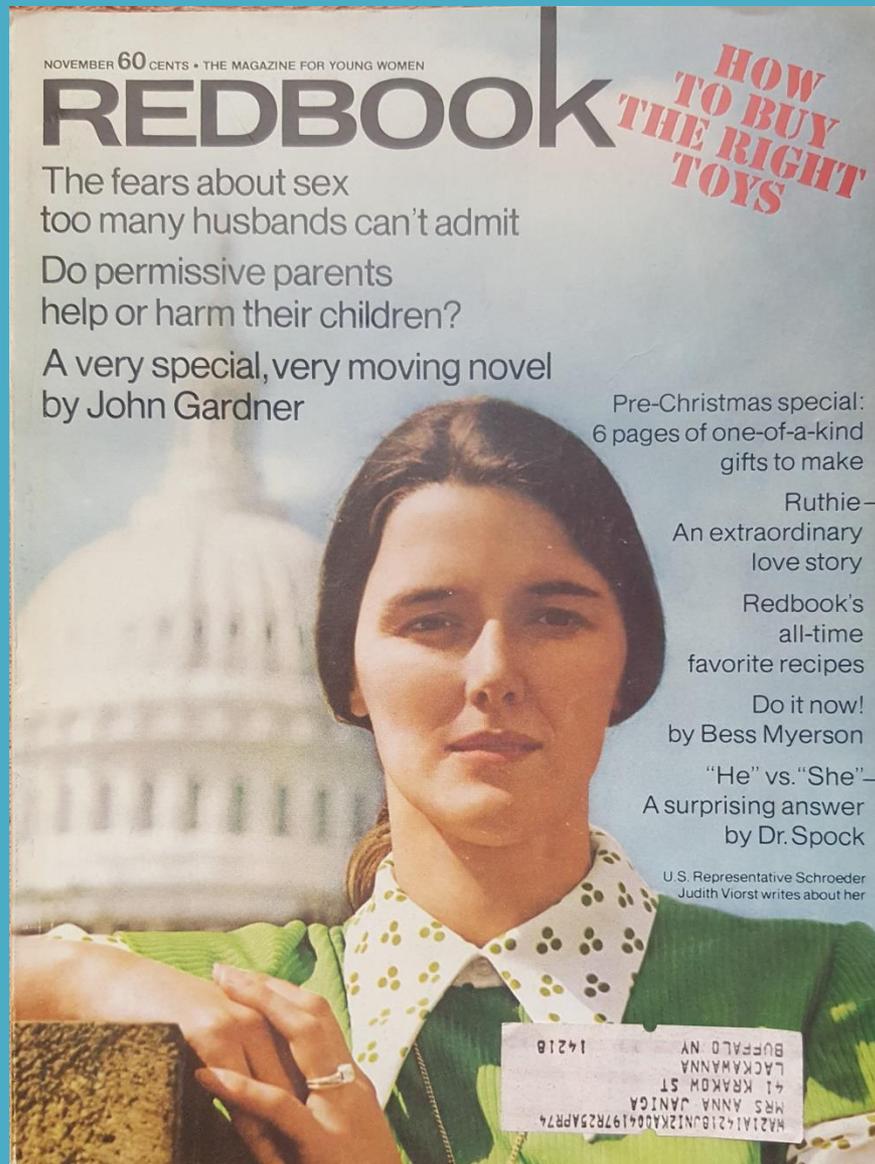


Congressman F. Edward  
Hebert (D-Louisiana)

Outraged House Armed Services  
Committee Chair orders Pat  
Schroeder and Ron Dellums to sit  
together on one chair...

...because, as he tells them,  
“Women and blacks are worth only  
half of one ‘regular’ member.”

The battle on the Armed Services Committee climaxes when the chair refuses to let Pat attend a fact-finding trip to Geneva with the rest of the members.



Pat gets revenge on Congressional sexism when she goes public

Then she buys her own plane ticket, flies to Geneva and meets the committee there.

But first she gets her magazine article distributed on every seat in the Armed Services Committee flight.



Pat and Congresswoman Shirley Chisolm travel to the National Women's Conference in Houston





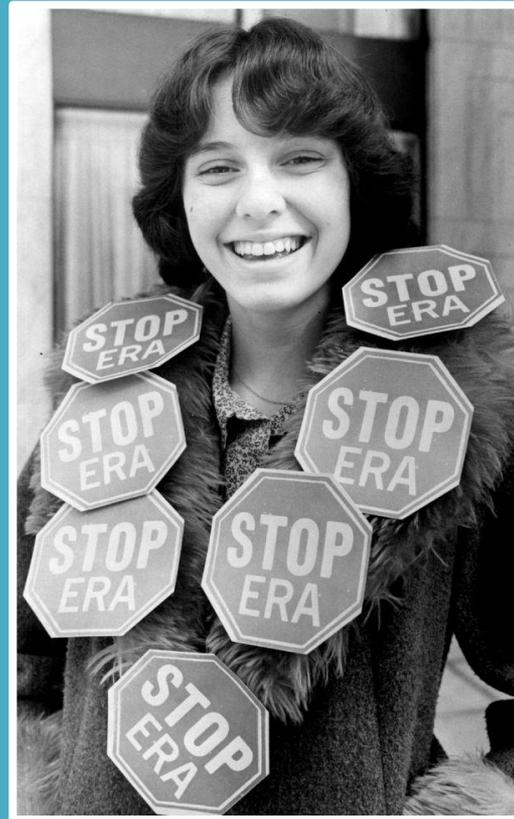
But elsewhere in Houston, Phyllis Schlafly mounts a brilliant media attack on the National Women's Conference.

She captures press attention and her S.T.O.P. ERA campaign goes NATIONAL



“Stop Taking Our  
Privileges”

Phyllis argues that the ERA will force women to lose advantages:



- DRAFT exemption
- SAFETY on the job
- ALIMONY after divorce



Conservative women learn talking points to turn their male legislators against ratifying the ERA:

- White gloves
- High heels
- Home baked bread



And Phyllis begins to win.

# Baffled by the Loss of Support, Feminists Groups Splinter, Lose Momentum



Pat agrees to a last ditch effort – a debate with Phyllis Schlafly.



Phyllis Schlafly destroys Pat Schroeder in a face-to-face televised debate over the Equal Rights Amendment.



Pat's debate loss signals the eventual defeat of the ERA. The consequences are apparent today.

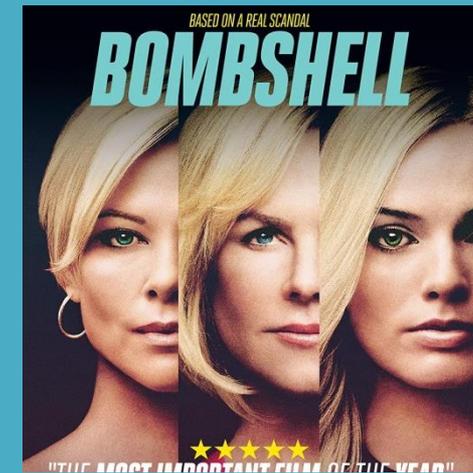
# The Audience

Vox 2017 headline. The “Hollywood's ideas about audiences are outdated. Wonder Woman's record-smashing debut proves it.” Hit box office and attendance numbers are clear: Wonder Woman's audience was 52% female, 48% male.

**Films with female leads earn more at box office – and not just the films featuring action heroes.**

Women have great stories to tell. A recent study shows female-led films are top box office performers — what more needs to be said?

<https://www.dw.com/en/films-with-female-leads-earn-more-at-box-office/a-46993799>



*White Glove War is positioned to further this profitable trend.*

# The Inspiration - Women in Politics



*Deb Havens*  
*Screenwriter*

Some years ago, Deb Havens, award-winning TV producer /writer with a number of feature projects behind her, took a hard turn onto the road less traveled to pursue a doctorate degree in Education Leadership.

Her dissertation explored gendered leadership experiences of seven women first time governors in their states across the US.

Along the way, her research turned up the compelling battle for women's equality between Phyllis Schlafly and Pat Schroeder.

Here's the gist:

Are equal rights for a woman identical to a man's?  
Then what about a woman's obligations?  
And what privileges do women lose?

*White Glove War* brings the questions to life. The answer we can all live with might be very far away.

# The Screen Writer

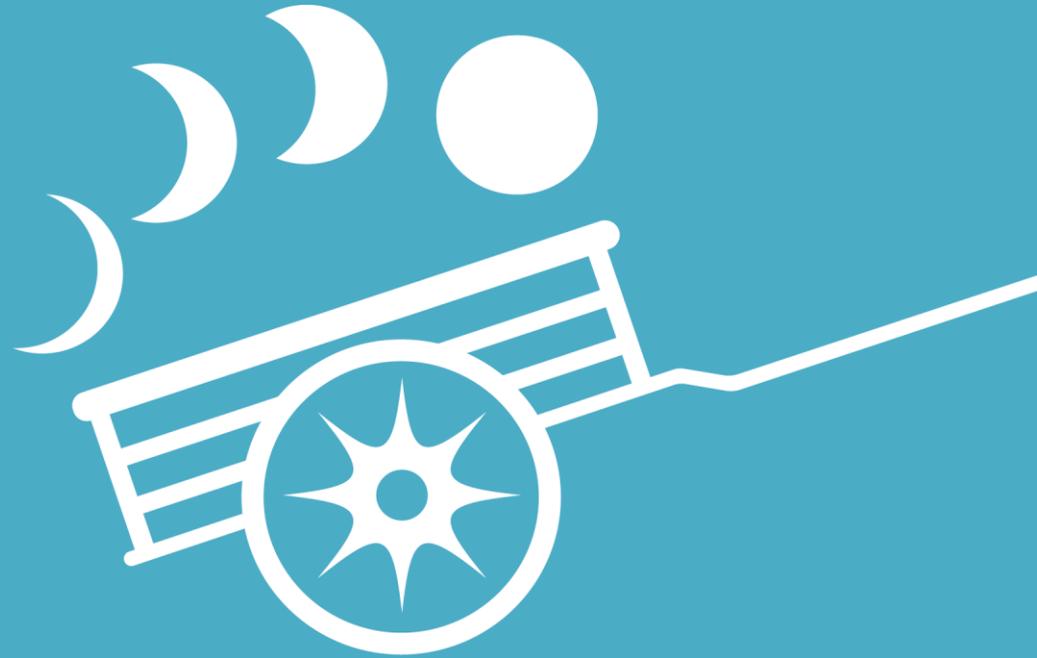
Dr. Deb Havens is not your typical screenwriter.

Former political candidate for state office, journalist, television producer, high school teacher and college professor, women's history buff.

Deb is a baby boomer who has lived the history she writes about.



**WHO BETTER  
TO CAPTURE  
FEMALE POLITICAL  
BATTLES  
THAN A WOMAN WHO  
HAS LIVED THEM?**



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