

**TEACHER GUIDE**

# 1932 DOC. #2: “The Girl I Love is a Democrat” Sheet Music

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Appeals to women voters were relatively new in the early 1930s. They were reflections of a time period when women had first won the right to vote (in 1920) and had started the first women’s political organizations.

In 1932 both parties ran for the first time on platforms supporting the repeal of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution. That amendment, also known as Prohibition, made it illegal to manufacture or to sell alcohol. The Democrats argued that ending Prohibition would help the poor economy by providing jobs for brewery workers and by generating new taxes from the sale of alcohol.

> **Project** the document.

This image is of a sheet music cover for a song that was written during this period. The woman in the image is meant to be a “flapper.” Flapper style began among young working class women of the 1920s who rejected the old notions of “female respectability.” They dressed in flashy clothes, wore make-up, smoked, drank, and partied. The donkey is a traditional symbol of the Democratic Party.

**QUESTION** What message does this image give about the Democrats? What evidence do you have to support your view?

**SUGGESTED ANSWER** The Democrats are for women, the end of Prohibition, and prosperity.

**EVIDENCE** the flapper is smiling and holding a mug of beer; she and the donkey are kicking up their heels and heading towards “Prosperity”

**QUESTION** Who are the target audiences for this image? Why do you think this?

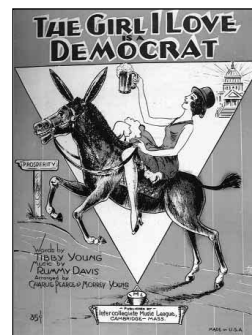
**SUGGESTED ANSWER** Target audiences include young women and men.

**EVIDENCE** the flapper is a sign of youth culture; the song is published by the Intercollegiate Music League

**SUGGESTED ANSWER** It also targets those opposing Prohibition.

**EVIDENCE** the beer mug says “Repeal”; the flapper is happily drinking beer

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**PowerPoint Slide**

QUESTION

**Why would this image have been unlikely 20 years earlier?**

SUGGESTED ANSWER

In 1912 women could not vote. The style of the woman's dress would have been different. Liquor was legal in 1912 and the call for "repeal" would not be heard until the 18th Amendment prohibiting alcohol was passed in 1920.

**FURTHER QUESTIONS**

Does this image support the empowerment of women? Why or why not?

Is it appropriate for alcohol and partying to be used as means to get votes? Why or why not?

**ADDITIONAL INFO**

One of Roosevelt's first actions upon taking office was to sign the Beer Act that allowed the sale of beer with a 3.2% alcohol content. This was a stopgap measure until the 21st Amendment repealing Prohibition was ratified in December, 1933.

**CONNECTIONS**

(see thematic listing)

**Reaching Voters** (sheet music)