

# Glossary

The following are terms used in *Strong Sisters* or necessary to understand the film's content. Each entry includes the term, the part of speech in parentheses (n=noun, v=verb, etc.), a definition and the section of the film where the term is used. Terms may have multiple definitions. The definitions presented here are relevant to the content of this film. Similarly, a word may function as both a noun and a verb or a noun and an adjective. Again, we include the part of speech most relevant to the film. The terms are listed in alphabetical order.

Access to capital (n.): The ability to tap into large supplies of money to fund a political campaign [Glass Ceiling]

Activist (n.): Person working for a cause [Getting Involved]

Bill (n.): A proposed new law or change to an existing law [Family, Why Does It Matter?, Issues]

Campaign finance limits (n.): Regulation on how much someone can donate to a particular candidate [Getting Involved, Republican Women]

Carry (or run) legislation (v.): Sponsor a bill and lead the effort to get it passed in the legislature [Why Does It Matter?, Issues, Republican Women]

Caucus (n.): 1. A group of like-minded people, such as the Republican or Democratic caucus in the State House, Women's Political Caucus, or the Black Caucus in the U.S. Congress; 2. A meeting of members of a political party to select candidates for office [Getting Involved, Glass Ceiling, Why Does It Matter?, Issues]

Cause-oriented (adj.): Motivated by a commitment to a particular issue or topic [Getting Involved]

Chauvinist (n.): Person who believes in their own superiority; often used to describe men who believe women are inferior and act accordingly [Patriarchy and Sexism]

Civil rights (n.): Rights that belong to a person because they are a member of a society; often used to refer to the effort to gain or protect rights of African Americans [Getting Involved]

Civil union (n.): A legal arrangement similar to marriage [Issues]



Class representation (n.): Election of people who are at the same economic level as their constituents [Why Does It Matter?]

Clout (n.): Power or influence [Why Colorado?]

Collaborate (v.): Work with others to reach a common goal [Family, Why Does It Matter?, Issues]

Compromise (v.): Settle a dispute by each side giving up something they wanted [Why Does It Matter?]

Congress (n.): The legislative or law-making body of the U.S. government; includes the U.S. House and Senate

Conservative (adj.): Holding political views that support traditional values and small government; conservatives are often described as being on the right [Republican Women]

Constituents (n.): The people an elected official represents [Why Does It Matter?, Issues]

Constitutional convention (n.): Meeting at which a new framework for a government is written [Suffrage]

Contributions (n.): Money donated to a candidate [Glass Ceiling]

Demonetized (adj.): No longer used as a standard for coins and paper money; used to describe silver and gold [Suffrage]

Depression (n.): Time when the economy is in decline [Suffrage]

Desegregate (v.): End the practice of separating people by race [Getting Involved]

Endorsement (n.): Act of publically giving one's approval to a candidate or idea [Glass Ceiling]

Environmentalism (n.): Person concerned about protecting nature and the natural environment [Getting Involved]

Ethnic representation (n.): Election of people who have the same ethnic background as their constituents [Why Does It Matter?]

Executive (n.): The person who is in charge of the branch of government that administers and enforces the law; the President and Governor are both executives



Extreme (adj.): Farthest out in any direction [Glass Ceiling, Republican Women]

Federal government (n.): The national government of the United States

Feminist (n.): Person who believes men and women should have equal rights [Housewives]

Floor (n.): The part of the House or Senate chamber where business is conducted [Why Does It Matter?]

Gender-neutral (adj.): Not favoring any gender; often used to describe language (i.e., using he/she or they rather than he) [Patriarchy and Sexism]

General Assembly: Colorado's legislative or law-making body; includes the Colorado House and Senate

Glass ceiling (n.): A metaphor for the limit put on women's ability to rise in their careers [Glass Ceiling, Sisterhood]

Governor (n.): The head of a state's executive branch

Hierarchy (n.): A way of organizing a group based on status or power [Glass Ceiling]

Leadership (n.): Within a legislative body, each party elects people to guide their party's activities; these people constitute the leadership. The leadership of the party with the most members in the House or Senate (called the majority party) makes important decisions about the running of the entire body. This includes the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate. Leadership also includes the Majority Leader, Minority Leader, Caucus Chair, and Whip, and others. These roles are held in both parties and in both chambers and these leaders set the legislative agenda of their caucus. [Why Colorado?, Patriarchy and Sexism, Family, Glass Ceiling]

Legislative (adj.): Law-making

Legislator (n.): Person serving in a law-making body

Legislature (n.): Governmental body that makes laws

Liberal (adj.): Holding political views that support civil liberties and a larger role for government; liberals are often described as being on the left or progressive [Western Women]



Litmus test (n.): A single factor used to make a judgment about a person [Republican Women]

Moderate (n.): Holding views that are neither conservative or liberal but in the middle [Republican women]

Norm (n.): Accepted standard of behavior [Family]

Old boys club (n.): Negative term for the informal system that allows men to control institutions [Family]

Panic of 1893 (n.): Economic depression that was especially severe in Colorado, lasting several years [Suffrage]

Polarized (adj.): Marked by division into extreme positions [Republican Women]

Policy (n.): Plan or course of action pursued by a government, political party, or business; law is an important part of public policy, those plans of action developed by the government [Why Does It Matter?]

Politics (n.): The practice of governing or of winning and maintaining power [Housewives, Getting Involved, Sisterhood]

Populist (n. or adj.): A person who advocates for the common people; the Populist Party, which advocated for farmers and workers, was influential in the 1890s [Suffrage]

Primary (n.): An election through which a political party chooses candidates [Glass Ceiling]

Recall (n.): A citizen-initiated election to remove an official from office [Family]

Referendum (n.): A vote by the people on a specific policy question [Suffrage]

Sexism (n.): Prejudice based on gender; most often applied to unfair treatment of women [Patriarchy and Sexism]

State House (n.): House of Representatives for the state of Colorado

State Senate (n.): Senate for the state of Colorado

Suffrage (n.): The right to vote [Suffrage]



Suffragist (n.): Person working to gain the right to vote for a group; usually used to describe women seeking the vote for their gender. [Suffrage]

Term limits (n.): Regulation of how many terms in office a person can serve [Why Colorado?]

True believers (n.): People who are so deeply committed to an issue that they will not compromise [Glass Ceiling]

U.S. Senator or Representative or Congressman (n.): person serving in the U.S. Senate or U.S. House of Representatives

WCTU: Women's Christian Temperance Union, a group that tried to outlaw alcohol and also worked for women's suffrage [Suffrage]

Welfare reform (n.): Change in government policy to improve the way in which the government helps people in need [Issues]