Progressives Fight for Social Reforms
Problems

• Living conditions were terrible, many city dwellers were jammed into tenements and lived in unsanitary conditions.

• Children worked in sweatshops and factories to help support their families and did not attend school.

• Conditions in the workplace were bad.
Progressive Solutions

• Progressives tried to make cities cleaner
• Progressives pushed for laws to restrict or ban child labor.
• Progressives pushed for legislation to help workers.
Enacted Reforms

- *Tenement House Act* – required new tenements to be built with open spaces and one bathroom for every three apartments.
- *Department of Street Cleaning* created.
- *National Child Labor Committee* got laws passed that did not allow children under 14 to work, which meant more went to school.
- By 1916 2/3 of states had *worker’s compensation laws* – workers who got hurt at work still received some pay.
Progressives Push for Political Reforms
Problems

• Corrupt political machines ran many local governments. Bribery was commonplace.
• In many states, big business controlled government, leaving average citizens with little influence.
Progressive Solutions

- Progressives tried to elect progressive mayors who would support reform and reform the structure of local governments.
- Progressives pushed for election reform.
Enacted Reforms

- Progressive Mayors reformed police departments, set minimum wage for city workers, reduced streetcar fares, set up public parks and playgrounds.
- City commissions appointed by governors or professional city managers took the place of politicians who only worried about party loyalty.
- The use of the secret ballot.
- **Direct primary** – the people get to pick the candidate from the party instead of party leaders.
- **Recall** – process by which voters can remove an elected official.
- **Initiative** – enabled citizens to propose and pass a law directly without going through state legislatures.
Progressives Confront Social Inequality
Problems

• Women don’t have the right to vote.
• African Americans were subjected to segregation and discrimination.
Progressive Solutions

- Progressive women came together at the Seneca Falls Convention in which women like Elizabeth Cady Stanton demanded the vote for women.

- African Americans like Booker T. Washington hoped African Americans could gain respect through education. He opened the Tuskegee Institute.

- Others, like W.E.B. Du Bois, favored confronting racism and helped to create the NAACP, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.
Enacted Reforms

• Women gained suffrage state by state. By 1918 women had voting rights in 15 states, thus influencing election = women started to get elected into office. By 1920 the 19th amendment passed granted women suffrage.

• The NAACP fought to make sure African Americans could exercise their voting rights under the 15th amendment. They also protested lynching, but the federal government did not pass any laws against it.