

Proclamation to Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19th
Amendment to the US Constitution Securing the Right of Women to Vote

Whereas, the right to vote is the cornerstone of representative democracy; and

Whereas, bold and courageous women from Michigan and throughout the nation fought for seven decades to win the right to vote, beginning with the women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848; and

Whereas, the right of women to vote nationally was finally secured by the ratification of the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution on August 18, 1920; and

Whereas, Michigan was one of the first three states to ratify the 19th Amendment on June 10, 1919, the same date as Wisconsin and Illinois; and

Whereas, Michigan women won the right to vote on November 5, 1918 when the voters passed an amendment to the state constitution – nearly two years before women were able to vote nationally; and

Whereas, since women won the right to vote and to be elected to public office, the legislative agenda and policies have been shaped by them to include children's issues, maternal health, women's contribution to the economy, and women gaining economic independence; and

Whereas, the 19th Amendment did not guarantee suffrage for all women, including African-American, Native American, Asian, and Latina women, many of whom suffered voter suppression until passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

Whereas, in 2020 women are not only voting in local, state and national elections, but are leading in all levels of government and are running for office in unprecedented numbers; and

Whereas, the women who serve in our federal, state, and local governments, including the majority of this City Council, follow in the footsteps of our resolute suffragist sisters: and

Whereas, the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution has played a crucial role in advancing the rights of women.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Troy City Council hereby celebrates the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, securing the right of women to vote;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Troy City Council recognizes the role of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in promoting the core values of our democracy as promised by the Constitution of the United States;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Troy City Council reaffirms this opportunity for people in Troy and beyond to learn about the women's suffrage movement and the role of women in our democracy, to strengthen democratic participation of all people, and to inspire future generations to cherish and preserve the right established by the 19th Amendment.