

*The Board of Supervisors of
Contra Costa County, California*

In the matter of:

Resolution No. 2020/259

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT, WHICH GAVE WOMEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE

WHEREAS, the year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, guaranteeing and protecting women's right to vote; and
WHEREAS, the amendment was a culmination of more than 70 years of work by women suffragists; and
WHEREAS, the Women's Suffrage movement started in July 1848 at the first women's rights convention in the United States, known as the Seneca Falls Convention; and
WHEREAS, voting rights in the United States was largely restricted to white male property owners in the 1770's and the 15th Amendment, ratified in 1870, stated that citizens could not be denied the right to vote because of their race; and
WHEREAS, the 15th Amendment expanded voting rights to African American men, however women were still denied the right to vote; and
WHEREAS, five Equal Suffrage Leagues were founded in Contra Costa County to support the suffrage movement; and
WHEREAS, California voters passed the Equal Suffrage measure in 1911; and
WHEREAS, on August 26, 1920 the 19th Amendment was signed into law giving women the right to vote; and
WHEREAS, this historic achievement was but one step in the long battle for voters' rights in this country. Voter suppression tactics continued in many states, targeting men and women of color, and low-income whites; and
WHEREAS, the 24th amendment, ratified in 1964, stated that "the rights of citizens... shall not be denied or abridged by the United States by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax"; and
WHEREAS, the 1965 Voter's Rights Act prohibited States from using policies and practices to suppress voters; and
WHEREAS, in 1975 the Voting Rights Act was expanded to protect language minorities; and
WHEREAS, the 1982 expansion of the Voting Rights Act made voting more accessible for the elderly and people with disabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes the 100th Anniversary of the Women's Right to Vote Amendment and its important and historic part of our nation's movement toward equal representation.

CANDACE ANDERSEN
Chair, District II Supervisor

JOHN GIOIA
Chair, District I Supervisor

DIANE BURGIS
District III Supervisor

KAREN MITCHOFF
District IV Supervisor

FEDERAL D. GLOVER
District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: September 22, 2020

David J. Twa,

By: _____, Deputy