



# City of Chicago



R2013-485

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 5/8/2013

**Sponsor(s):** Burke, Edward M. (14)

**Type:** Resolution

**Title:** Declaration of June 11, 2013 as " Illinois Women's Suffrage Centennial Commemoration Day " in Chicago

**Committee(s) Assignment:**

## RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, On June 11, 1913, the Illinois legislature adopted the Illinois Presidential and Municipal Suffrage Bill; and

**WHEREAS**, On June 26, 1913, Governor Dunne signed the bill granting women the right to vote for presidential electors and in local elections not specified in the state constitution, thus making Illinois the first state east of the Mississippi to grant women the right to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, The women's suffrage movement had strong roots in Chicago and Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1912, Grace Wilbur Trout, then head of the Chicago Political Equality League and president of the state organization, organized programs to increase membership and lobby public officials to support a woman's right to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, Jane Addams and Elizabeth Burke of the University of Chicago served as delegates to the Women's Suffrage Legislature in 1911; and

**WHEREAS**, Ida B. Wells-Barnett organized the Alpha Suffrage Club in Chicago in 1913 and successfully integrated the U.S. suffrage movement when she refused to walk at the rear of a 1913 Washington, D.C. parade and instead walked alongside her white Illinois peers; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1915, Wells-Barnett helped elect Oscar Stanton De Priest as Alderman of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward and Chicago's first African American Alderman; and

**WHEREAS**, On July 26, 1913, Gertrude B. Blackwelder, former president of the Chicago Woman's Club, became the first woman to vote in Cook County after casting a ballot in Morgan Park at an election to vote upon a proposed bond issue for a \$45,000 high school; and

**WHEREAS**, Women in Chicago had their first opportunity to exercise their right of suffrage during the 1914 aldermanic primary elections; and

**WHEREAS**, Women voted for the first time in a Chicago mayoral election in the spring of 1915, using ballots that were kept separate from the men's; and

**WHEREAS**, The League of Women Voters was founded by the National American Woman Suffrage Association in Chicago in 1920 and remains active in promoting voting rights and civic education programs throughout the country; and

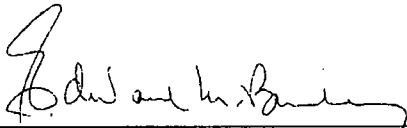
**WHEREAS**, With the encouragement of the 1913 victory in Illinois, women of Chicago, along with women of other cities across the nation, organized parades to heighten public support for total suffrage throughout a constitutional amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, An estimated 5,000 people marched down Michigan Avenue during the 1916 Republican National Convention to pressure Republican support for such an amendment, and

such demonstrations were largely responsible for passage of a women's suffrage amendment;  
and

**WHEREAS**, The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U. S. constitution, granting women full suffrage, was passed by Congress in 1919 and ratified in 1920; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this eighth day of May, 2013, do hereby declare June 11, 2013 to be ILLINOIS WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION DAY, and encourage Chicagoans to observe this commemoration.



Edward M. Burke, Alderman, 14<sup>th</sup> Ward