



# Office of the City Clerk



R2013-177

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## City Council Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 2/13/2013

**Sponsor(s):** Burke, Edward M. (14)  
Austin, Carrie M. (34)

**Type:** Resolution

**Title:** Creation of a subcommittee of the Committee on Committees, Rules and Ethics to commemorate 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in Chicago

**Committee(s) Assignment:** Committee on Committees, Rules and Ethics

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, On June 26, 1913, Illinois approved women's suffrage, thus making Illinois the first state east of the Mississippi to grant women the right to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, Kittie Smith reportedly became the first woman to vote in Chicago in 1913 and did so with her feet due to a childhood accident in which she lost her arms; and

**WHEREAS**, The women's suffrage movement had strong roots in Chicago; 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 successfully integrated the U.S. suffrage movement when she refused to walk at the rear of a 1913 Washington parade and instead walked alongside her white Illinois peers when the march began; 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**, 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

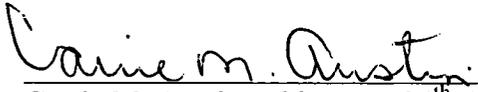
**WHEREAS**, An estimated 5,000 people marched down Michigan Avenue during the 1916 Republican National Convention to pressure Republican support for such an amendment, and demonstrations were largely responsible for presidential candidate, Charles Evans Hughes, changing his position and supporting passage of a woman's suffrage amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1919, Congress passed the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, granting women the right to vote; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That a subcommittee of the Committee on Committees, Rules, and Ethics is hereby created to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage in Chicago.



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



Carrie M. Austin, Alderman, 34<sup>th</sup> Ward