



Office of the City Clerk

City Hall
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Legislation Text

File #: R2019-409, Version: 1

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Illinois had long been at the forefront of the movement to provide women the right to vote;

WHEREAS, in Illinois the first women's suffrage association was established in EarlviHe in LaSalle County in 1855, just seven years after the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York which called for suffrage for women;.

WHEREAS, the first statewide suffrage organization, the Illinois Woman Suffrage Association, was established in Chicago in 1869, becoming the Illinois Equal Suffrage Association in 1891;

WHEREAS, also in 1891, Illinois enacted a law allowing women the right to vote for elective school offices;

WHEREAS, in Chicago on January 30,1913, Ida B. Wells-Barnett and Belle Squire established the Alpha Suffrage Club, believed to be the first black women's suffrage association in the United States;

WHEREAS, on June 26,1913, Illinois enacted the Presidential Suffrage Bill which gave Illinois women the right to vote in federal and municipal elections, not otherwise restricted to men under the Illinois Constitution;

WHEREAS, with the enactment of that law, Illinois became the first state east of the Mississippi River to give women such right to vote for President of the United States, and is credited with being a major positive influence in advancing the women's suffrage movement in the United States;

WHEREAS, on June 4,1919, the proposed 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution was passed by the United States Congress and sent to the states for ratification;

WHEREAS, 100 years ago on June 10,1919, Illinois became the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment, one hour prior to neighboring Wisconsin;

WHEREAS, Illinois led the way for the necessary three-fourths ofthe states to ratify the 19th Amendment, which became part ofthe Constitution on August 26, 1920;

WHEREAS, many Chicago women of all classes, races, ethnicities, and politics worked tirelessly to secure the right to vote, including Mary Livermore, Myra Bradwell, Kate Doggett, Celia Parker Wool ley, Catharine Waugh McCulloch, Grace Wilbur Trout, Jane Addams, Elizabeth Maloney, Agnes Nestor, Flora Witkowsky, Corinne Brown, Mary Fitzbutier Waring, Mary C. Bryon, and Emma Steghagen;

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this twelfthjray of Jupe, declare June 10, 2019, a day to celebrate women's right to voje and the important p He Illinafe played in^atfhieving that right in the United States. .^r s//