



SPONSOR: Rep. Longhurst & Rep. Bennett & Rep. Bolden &
Rep. Briggs King & Rep. Dorsey Walker & Rep. Griffith
& Rep. Heffernan & Rep. K. Johnson & Rep. Minor-
Brown & Rep. K. Williams & Sen. Poore & Sen. Cloutier
& Sen. Hansen & Sen. Lockman & Sen. Sturgeon
Rep. Schwartzkopf

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
150th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21

RECOGNIZING THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT.

1 WHEREAS, August 18, 2020 is the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution, that
2 cemented the efforts of the women's suffrage movement and gave American women the right to vote; and

3 WHEREAS, the women suffrage movement expanded from 1840-1920 to gain equal voting rights; and

4 WHEREAS, from 1919 to 1920, the 66th United States Congress debated, and State legislatures considered, an
5 amendment to the Constitution of the United States to provide suffrage for women; and

6 WHEREAS, a proposed women's suffrage amendment was first introduced in the United States Senate in 1878
7 and was brought to a vote, unsuccessfully, in 1887, 1914, 1918, and 1919; and

8 WHEREAS, on May 21, 1919, the United States House of Representatives approved a proposed amendment,
9 followed by the United States Senate a few weeks later on June 4, 1919, and within days, the legislatures of several states
10 had voted to ratify the amendment; and

11 WHEREAS, Delaware ratified the 19th Amendment on March 6, 1923; and

12 WHEREAS, ratification of the 19th Amendment ensured women could more fully participate in their democracy
13 and fundamentally changed the role of women in the civic life of our Nation; and

14 WHEREAS, a woman's right to vote would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of Delaware women
15 from the National Women's Party Suffragists, the Wilmington Equal Suffrage Study Club Suffragists, and the Delaware
16 Equal Suffrage Association Suffragists; and

17 WHEREAS, the Delaware Heritage Commission is responsible for preserving Delaware's unique history through
18 publishing books, awarding grants, and hosting events; and

19 WHEREAS, the Delaware Heritage Commission previously organized events celebrating the 75th anniversary of
20 the 19th amendment in 1995; and

21 WHEREAS, the centennial offers an opportunity for people in the United States to learn about and commemorate
22 the efforts of the women's suffrage movement and the role of women in our democracy; and

23 WHEREAS, commemorative programs, activities, and sites allow people in the United States to learn about the
24 women's suffrage movement and to commemorate and honor the role of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in further
25 fulfilling the promise of the Constitution of the United States and promoting the core values of our democracy;

26 NOW, THEREFORE:

27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 150th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the
28 Senate concurring therein, that we recognize the historical importance of the centennial of the ratification of the 19th
29 amendment on August 18, 2020; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the House of Representatives and the Senate call on the Delaware
31 Heritage Commission to organize meaningful events and exhibits to honor the 100th Anniversary and establish a
32 subcommittee that will plan a parade to commemorate the occasion;

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all Delawareans are encouraged to join the Commission in an
34 acknowledgment of the necessary rights secured by this important amendment; and

35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the 150th General Assembly of the State of
36 Delaware, that the Women's Suffrage Centennial Subcommittee is hereby established under the Delaware Heritage
37 Commission for the purpose of planning and implementing an appropriate commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the
38 passage of the 19th amendment.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Women's Suffrage Centennial Subcommittee shall consist of the
40 following members:

41 Three members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House.

42 Three members to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

43 Three members who shall broadly represent the various racial and cultural groups of this State to be appointed by
44 the Governor, who is respectfully requested to make all reasonable efforts to ensure that each county is represented;

45 And at least three members of the Delaware Heritage Commission.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair and Co-Chair of the Women's Suffrage Centennial Subcommittee
47 shall be elected from among its members.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair and Co-Chair of the Women's Suffrage Centennial Subcommittee
49 may appoint additional subcommittees and members should supplementary perspective and expertise be needed.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall provide adequate
51 funding to Women's Suffrage Centennial Subcommittee to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th
52 amendment.

SYNOPSIS

This resolution celebrates Delaware's observance of the centennial of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing for women's suffrage. It further calls on the Delaware Heritage Commission to organize meaningful events and exhibits to honor the 100th anniversary and establish a subcommittee to plan a parade commemorating the occasion.