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Agenda Items: Ceremonial Presentation

Date: 8/27/2020

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CITY OF FRESNO
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FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



Additional Information

Agenda Related Item(s) – Ceremonial Presentation

Item(s)

Proclamation of “Women’s Equality Day”

Contents: Additional Information - Proclamation

Supplemental Information:

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Esmeralda Soria

Fresno City Councilmember, District 1

PROCLAMATION WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

100 Years of the 19th Amendment



- Women's Equality day commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. constitution, granting women the right to vote.
- The 19th Amendment was first introduced in 1878 but was ratified on August 18, 1920 following a 72 year long political movement known as the women's suffrage movement.
- To win the right to vote, women circulated petitions, published newspapers, gave speeches, and traveled all around the country to win support.
- In 1971, Congress designated August 26 as Women's Equality Day.
- Women around the country celebrate this day as a symbol of the continued fight for equal rights.
- In the 2018 midterm elections there were 81.3 million women registered to vote.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Fresno is commemorating the centennial of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed that "the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex"; and

WHEREAS, The text that would become the 19th Amendment in 1920 was first proposed in Congress in 1878; and

WHEREAS, California passed Equal Suffrage for women 9 years earlier, in 1911 due to the hard work of women organizers throughout the state that included Black, Asian, and Latina women leaders like Lydia Flood Jackson, Clara Chan Lee, and Maria de Lopez who, with Mary Sperry, founder of the California Equal Suffrage Association, convinced the electorate of men that it was in their best interest to give women the vote; and

WHEREAS, With ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, federal voting rights could no longer be denied because of race or sex, many voters across the country continued to face barriers including registration rules, literacy tests, poll taxes, and moral and residency requirements; and

WHEREAS, In the 2018 midterm elections there were 81.3 million women registered to vote in the United States comprising 53% of the electorate with fifty-five percent voting compared to 51.8% of male voters; and

WHEREAS, The women's suffrage movement forever changed America, expanding representative democracy and inspiring other popular movements for constitutional change and reform.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Fresno hereby proclaims August 26, 2020 to be:

"Women's Equality Day"
in the City of Fresno