

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF VENICE, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT, URGING THE FEDERAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT AND TO ENACT IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION FOR THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT, URGING THE GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA AND THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS FOR RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the United States of America ("Constitution") does not currently guarantee women the same rights and protections as men; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to amend the Constitution, an amendment must be passed by Congress and then ratified by three-fourths of the states; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Congress ("Congress") passed the 19<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment in 1919 giving women the right to vote, which was ratified by three-fourths of the states in 1920; and

**WHEREAS**, the Equal Rights Amendment was introduced as a bill in Congress every year since 1923 and read "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex"; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress passed the Equal Rights Amendment in 1972 and permitted only seven years for the necessary three-fourths of the states to ratify the amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Equal Rights Amendment was ratified by thirty states by 1973 but a subsequent surge in opposition slowed the ratification process; and

**WHEREAS**, only thirty-five states had ratified the Equal Rights Amendment by the end of the seven-year deadline in 1979; and

**WHEREAS**, two more states have ratified the Equal Rights Amendment since 1979 and one more state must ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to meet the three-fourths requirement; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been one-hundred years since women in the United States were granted the right to vote but they still lack equality under the Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution would guarantee that all people are equal regardless of sex and that these rights cannot be altered; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress can and should amend the language to remove the deadline for ratification, and S.J. Resolution 6 has been introduced to remove the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and allow for its ratification once the 38th state votes to ratify.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VENICE, FLORIDA, as follows:**

**SECTION 1.** The above Whereas clauses are ratified and confirmed as true and correct.

**SECTION 2.** The City of Venice supports the Equal Rights Amendment and requests that the federal delegation urge the U.S. Congress to support S.J. Resolution 6 to remove the seven-year deadline for ratification and allow for its ratification once the 38th state votes to ratify.

**SECTION 3.** The City of Venice supports the State of Florida becoming the 38<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment and requests that the local delegation strongly urge the Governor of Florida and the State legislature to take the necessary steps for the State of Florida to become the 38<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

**SECTION 4.** The City Council hereby instructs the City Clerk to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the federal delegation and the local delegation and the Governor of the State of Florida.

**SECTION 5.** This Resolution shall take effect upon adoption, as provided by law.

**ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VENICE, FLORIDA, AT A MEETING HELD ON THE 14TH DAY OF JANUARY 2020.**

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Ron Feinsod, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Lori Stelzer, MMC, City Clerk

I, Lori Stelzer, MMC, City Clerk of the City of Venice, Florida, a municipal corporation in Sarasota County, Florida, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full and complete, true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Venice, Florida, at a meeting thereof duly convened and held on the 14th day of January 2020, a quorum being present.

WITNESS my hand and official seal of said City this 14th day of January 2020.

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Lori Stelzer, MMC, City Clerk

(S E A L)

Approved as to form:

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Kelly Fernandez, City Attorney