

1           A RESOLUTION commemorating the centennial anniversary of Kentucky's  
2 ratification of the 19th Amendment on January 6, 1920.

3           WHEREAS, on June 4, 1919, the United States Congress passed and submitted to  
4 the states for ratification the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution,  
5 prohibiting the federal government and the states from denying the right to vote to United  
6 States citizens on the basis of sex; and

7           WHEREAS, on August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment was ratified as approved by  
8 36 state legislatures; and

9           WHEREAS, millions of women voted in national elections for the first time in  
10 1920; and

11           WHEREAS, the social and political movement to secure equal voting rights for  
12 women originated at the historic Seneca Falls, New York Convention of 1848; and

13           WHEREAS, the resolution drafted at the convention stated that "it is the duty of  
14 women of this country to secure to themselves their sacred right to the elective franchise";  
15 and

16           WHEREAS, in 1878, the women's suffrage proposal that would eventually become  
17 the 19th Amendment would be introduced to Congress, failing several times over the  
18 course of over 40 years before becoming the 19th Amendment; and

19           WHEREAS, Kentucky was one of the first states to grant women limited suffrage  
20 rights, allowing female heads of household in rural areas the right to vote on taxes and  
21 local school boards for the county "common school" system in 1838, serving as a national  
22 model at the time. In 1894, women in Lexington, Covington, and Newport were allowed  
23 to vote in school board elections, although the law was later rescinded; and

24           WHEREAS, Kentucky was a trailblazer for southern states in advocating for  
25 women's suffrage; and

26           WHEREAS, in 1867, Glendale, Kentucky, formed a local women's suffrage  
27 association, the first of its kind in the South; and

1           WHEREAS, in 1881, the annual American Woman Suffrage Association  
2 convention was held in Louisville, the first convention held south of the Mason-Dixon  
3 line; and

4           WHEREAS, Kentucky women played a prominent role in the advancement of  
5 women's suffrage. Virginia Perry, of Louisville, was vice president of the American  
6 Equal Rights Association, a prominent national organization at the time. Mary Barr Clay,  
7 of Richmond, was vice president of both the National Woman Suffrage Association and  
8 the American Woman Suffrage Association. Mary Barr Clay was also instrumental in  
9 having the American Woman Suffrage Association hold its first convention in the South.  
10 Mary Clay's younger sister, Laura, founded the Kentucky Woman Suffrage Association,  
11 the first statewide women's suffrage organization in the South; and

12           WHEREAS, on January 6, 1920, Kentucky became the 23rd state to ratify the 19th  
13 Amendment; and

14           WHEREAS, to ensure that Kentucky women would be able to vote in 1920, on  
15 March 29, 1920, the legislature passed a law allowing women to vote in the 1920  
16 presidential election; and

17           WHEREAS, in 1922, the first woman was elected to the Kentucky House of  
18 Representatives; in 1923, the first woman was elected as Secretary of State; in 1926, the  
19 first woman was elected to the United States House of Representatives to represent  
20 Kentucky; in 1927, the first woman was elected as State Treasurer; in 1955, the first  
21 woman was elected as Auditor of Public Accounts; in 1967, the first woman and first  
22 person of color was elected to the Kentucky Senate; in 1975, the first woman was elected  
23 as Lieutenant Governor; in 1983, the first woman was elected as Governor; and in 2015,  
24 the first woman of color was elected as Lieutenant Governor; and

25           WHEREAS, this body rightfully acknowledges the hard work, sacrifice, and  
26 dedication of the individuals and organizations instrumental in ensuring that women have  
27 the right to vote, participate in the political process, and have a voice in shaping the

1 policies of this Commonwealth;

2 NOW, THEREFORE,

3 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*  
4 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

5 ➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives hereby honor the  
6 Kentuckians who worked to make women's suffrage possible, upon the 100th anniversary  
7 of Kentucky's ratification of the 19th Amendment.

8 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a  
9 copy of this Resolution to Donna Moore Campbell, Chair, The Women's Network, P.O.  
10 Box 910246, Lexington, Kentucky 40591; and Fran Wagner, President, League of  
11 Women Voters of Kentucky, 115 South Ewing, Louisville, Kentucky 40206.