NEW JERSEY HISTORIC TRUST
PO Box 457
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

May 28, 2019

Rebecca Kleefisch,
Executive Director
Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission

Dear Executive Director Kleefisch,

The New Jersey Historic Trust requests a one-time grant of $125,000 from the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission to expand the National Votes for Women Trail (the Trail). The Trail will document the historic sites and leaders of women's suffrage in each state. Working in partnership with the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites, the NJ Historic Trust will create a permanent commemoration by connecting every state and hundreds of local communities to the national, non-violent movement to expand democracy to include women, more than half the U.S. population.

The New Jersey Historic Trust (NJHT) was created by law in 1967 to advance historic preservation in New Jersey for the benefit of future generations through education, stewardship and financial investment programs that save our heritage and strengthen our communities. As a quasi-state agency that is also recognized as a non-profit organization, the Trust routinely collaborates with other organizations to expand our reach and achieve greater results. Working as a partner with the State Historic Preservation Office, the Trust helped to fund a signage program to mark and commemorate sites along the New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail, the first trail of its kind in the nation.

What is the National Votes for Women Trail?

Today the National Votes for Women Trail includes a database of 1150+ sites where a suffrage story can be told in 47 states. This database has been crowd sourced by volunteers in each state and is accessible on the website www.ncwhs.org . The William G. Pomeroy Foundation, based in Syracuse, NY, has committed to fabricating permanent roadside markers for 250 sites on the Trail - five in each state in the country. Volunteer state coordinators will select sites for roadside markers and submit nominations to be reviewed by a panel of noted historians. Once approved, the roadside markers will be fabricated and installed. State coordinators will work with historic sites and local governments to create public celebrations for the marker installations**.** A marketing toolkit will help each state coordinator to widely promote the Trail and marker installations, further sharing their state's suffrage history**.**

Completing this ambitious project by the end of 2020 requires professional oversight. The NJ Historic Trust is uniquely situated to work with the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites, a New Jersey registered 501c3. As the Trust's Executive Director, I bring a strong background in preserving historic resources and promoting women's history. I led the creation of the New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail which tells the story of the important contributions of New Jersey women through the

historic sites and places they left behind. As a partner in the 2019-2020 project to complete the National Votes for Women Trail, the Trust would further develop the Trail's database and the online map, identify sites in the last three states, and work with volunteers to coordinate the marker program across the country. The proposed partnership with the Trust would further the goals of this project across the nation and have an immense impact on the success of the Trail.

The National Votes for Women Trail is a tangible expression of the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission's mission "To commemorate and coordinate the nationwide celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and to educate the American people about the history and the leaders of the women's suffrage movement in the United States in a nonpartisan fashion." The Trail project meets the Commission's goal to encourage private, state and local partnerships. It gives the Commission a framework for partnering with state and local entities on Trail site identification and marker celebrations. The Trail will shine a light on the diversity in the suffrage movement, a movement for civil rights that touched every home in the country. It will identify suffrage leaders in each state and the sites where they lived, gave speeches, organized events. Further, suffrage leaders' activities and accomplishments documented in the Trail's database will provide a wealth of content for website and social media, helping the Commission meet its education goal.

Congress passed legislation to create a **Votes for Women Trail** in 2009, but never funded the effort. Now, with funding to the Commission, it seems the time to turn a vision into a reality. The National Votes for Women Trail started as a grass roots effort by Americans across the country to learn more about their own history and share it with a wider audience. It offers the Commission an opportunity to reach every state and get input from a multitude of communities.

We would welcome not only the Commission's financial support for the National Votes for Women Trail, but also the opportunity to partner in creating a nationwide and long lasting commemoration of women winning the right to vote. I can provide a detailed scope of work and project budget if you would like to discuss further. I would be happy to meet with you and answer any questions you may have regarding this request and please feel free to contact me at (609) 984-7079. I hope that you will favorably consider this request and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Dorothy P. Guzzo
Executive Director