



STATE OF NEBRASKA



Proclamation



WHEREAS,

The United States is a republic premised on the equality of all persons under God;

WHEREAS,

For more than a century after the founding of the United States, women were unjustly denied equal political and civil liberties, including the right to vote.

WHEREAS,

From 1881 to 1882, suffragists mounted a campaign to amend the Nebraska constitution to allow women to vote. Nationally known leaders Susan B. Anthony and Lucy Stone came to Nebraska to support local activists such as Lucy and Erasmus Correll of Hebron in the effort.

WHEREAS,

Even though the 1881-1882 campaign was unsuccessful, Nebraskans distinguished themselves for their commitment to women's suffrage. As Lucy Stone observed, "In no state have we ever found so many men and women who with real earnestness, came to the defense of this cause, or who did it at such a cost. The long rides of twenty or twenty-five miles to attend a meeting, and then to ride the whole distance back the same night, sometimes without even a chance to have supper, are no trifles..."

WHEREAS,

Despite the failed campaign in Nebraska, suffragists persisted in their efforts to rally support for a federal amendment to extend the franchise to women.

WHEREAS,

The passion, persuasiveness, and determined activism of the suffrage movement eventually turned the tide of public opinion. On June 4, 1919, Congress approved the 19th Amendment for proposal to the individual states. It declares, "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."

WHEREAS,

On August 2, 1919, the Nebraska Legislature unanimously ratified the 19th Amendment. In August 1920, the 19th Amendment officially became part of the United States Constitution, guaranteeing women the right to vote nationwide.

WHEREAS,

Nebraskans are thankful for the inspiring efforts of the suffragists whose dedicated advocacy secured women the right to vote.

WHEREAS,

Nebraskans value the ongoing contributions of the women in our state who vote, hold office, and otherwise actively participate in the political process.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the second day of August 2019 as

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEBRASKA RATIFYING THE 19TH AMENDMENT DAY

in Nebraska, and I do hereby urge all citizens to take due note of the observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this Twenty-sixth day of July, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Nineteen.



Attest:

Mark E. Bruen

Secretary of State

Pete Ricketts

Governor