



VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK
Village Commission Agenda Report
REGULAR MEETING

Item # 5.b

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Biscayne Park Village Commission

FROM: Rox Ross

DATE: September 1, 2020

TITLE: **RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
PASSAGE AND RATIFICATION OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT TO
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, PROVIDING FOR
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE**

Recommendation

Reading and approval of the attached Resolution Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Passage and Ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, providing for Women's Suffrage.

Background

See attached proposed resolution.

Resource Impact

Minimal financial impact.

Attachment

Draft Resolution

Literature from the 1920-2020 Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission.

Prepared by: Rox Ross

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RESOLUTION NO. 2020-43

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA, CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE AND RATIFICATION OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, PROVIDING FOR WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, guaranteeing and protecting women’s right to vote; and

WHEREAS, women first organized and collectively fought for suffrage at the national level in July of 1848. Suffragists such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott convened a meeting of over 300 people in Seneca Falls, New York; culminating in the now-famous 1848 Declaration of Sentiments, which mimicked Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence by proclaiming “all men *and women* are created equal;” and,

WHEREAS, in the following decades, women marched, protested, lobbied and even went to jail; by the late 1800’s regional suffrage organizations began to form in states across the United States advocating for women’s rights to vote; and by the 1870s, women pressured Congress to vote on an amendment that would recognize their suffrage rights; this amendment, sometimes known as the Susan B. Anthony amendment, became the 19th Amendment; and

WHEREAS, in 1893, Ella C. Chamberlain founded the Florida Women’s Suffrage Association to start a state campaign; but, it took 20 years for the Equal Franchise League of Jacksonville to petition the Florida Legislature to consider a bill recognizing women’s suffrage rights, citizens spoke at a packed hearing in the Florida Capitol Building, and that petition was rejected in April 1913; and

WHEREAS, women and allies to the movement continued to organize on a national level, and after decades of arguments for and against women’s suffrage, on May 21, 1919 the United States House of Representatives approved a proposed amendment, followed by the Senate a few weeks later on June 4, 1919; and

WHEREAS, upon the United States Congress’s approval, states across the country held special sessions on ratification, and on August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment, meeting the required three-fourths of the then 48 states to be added to the Constitution, and eight days later, on August 26, 1920 the 19th Amendment was certified into the United States Constitution, protecting American women’s right to vote; and¹

WHEREAS, this centennial offers an unparalleled opportunity to elevate women’s history and to commemorate a milestone of democracy; that the right of citizens of these United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the federal or state governments on account of gender; and

¹ Florida showed support for women’s right to vote by becoming the 43rd state to ratify the amendment on May 13, 1969.

1
2 **WHEREAS**, most of the women who began asking for the right to vote never lived to see the
3 enfranchisement of women, but today more than 68 million American women vote in elections because
4 of the courageous suffragists who never gave up the fight for equality; and

5
6 **WHEREAS**, women are running for office in unprecedented numbers, and we encourage current
7 politicians, both male and female, to remember that they follow in the footsteps of those great suffragists.

8
9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF THE**
10 **VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA, THAT:**

11
12 **Section 1. Recitals.** The above recitals are true and correct, and incorporated herein by this
13 reference and are hereby adopted as the legislative and administrative findings of the Village Commission.

14
15 **Section 2. Resolve.** The Village Commission hereby resolves to:

- 16 a. Celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment
- 17 to the Constitution of the United States, providing for women’s suffrage;
- 18 b. Honor the role of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in further promoting the core
- 19 values of our democracy as promised by the Constitution of the United States;
- 20 c. Reaffirm the opportunity for people of the United States to learn about and
- 21 commemorate the efforts of the women’s suffrage movement and the role of women in
- 22 our democracy; and,
- 23 d. Reaffirm the Commission’s role and urge all government agencies of the State of
- 24 Florida and these United States to continue to strengthen democratic participation and
- 25 to inspire future generations to cherish and preserve the historic precedent established
- 26 under the 19th Amendment.

27
28 **Section 3. Transmittal.** The Village Clerk is instructed to furnished copies of this Resolution
29 to the appropriate officials, including U.S. Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott, U.S. Representatives
30 Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Frederica Wilson, Florida Governor Ron Desantis, the Miami Dade
31 County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, the Florida League of Cities and the Miami Dade
32 County League of Cities.

33
34 **Section 4. Severability.** If any section, sentence, clause or phrase herein is held to be invalid
35 by any court of competent jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no way affect the validity of the
36 remaining portions of this Resolution.

37
38 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its
39 adoption.

1 PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of September, 2020.

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4 The foregoing Resolution was offered by _____, who moved its
5 adoption. The motion was seconded by _____, and upon being put to a vote
6 the vote was as follows:

7
8 Virginia O’Halpin, Mayor _____
9 Macdonald Kennedy, Vice Mayor _____
10 Daniel Samaria, Commissioner _____
11 Roxanna Ross, Commissioner _____
12 William Tudor, Commissioner _____

13
14 VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK

15
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17 _____
18 Virginia O’Halpin, Mayor

19
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22 ATTEST:

23
24
25 _____
26 Roseann Prado, Village Clerk

27
28
29 APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR THE
30 USE AND RELIANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK ONLY:

31
32
33
34 _____
35 John R. Herin, Jr., Interim Village Attorney

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

FLORIDA

RATIFIED THE 19TH AMENDMENT ON MAY 13, 1969

1920  2020
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
CENTENNIAL
COMMISSION



1920-2020



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"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."

The 19th Amendment

ABOUT

The Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission (WSCC) was formed by Congress to commemorate the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote and the 19th Amendment.

Throughout 2020, the United States is celebrating the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which secured women's constitutional right to vote. Today, more than 68 million American women vote in elections because of the courageous suffragists who never gave up the fight for equality. This centennial is an unparalleled opportunity to elevate women's history and to commemorate a milestone of American democracy.

Use this toolkit as your guide to commemorating the centennial in your state and community.



ALICE PAUL IN FRONT OF THE NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, D.C., 1920.

LEARN THE HISTORY

THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

Suffragists began their organized fight for women's equality in 1848 when they demanded the right to vote during the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York. For the next 72 years, women leaders lobbied, marched, picketed, and protested for the right to the ballot. The U.S. House of Representatives finally approved the "Susan B. Anthony Amendment," which guaranteed women the right to vote, on May 21, 1919. The U.S. Senate followed two weeks later and voted to approve the 19th Amendment on June 4, 1919. The 19th Amendment then went to the states, where it had to be ratified by three-fourths of the then 48 states to be added to the Constitution. Tennessee became the 36th and final state needed to ratify the 19th Amendment on August 18, 1920. On August 26, 1920, the U.S. Secretary of State issued a proclamation declaring the 19th Amendment ratified and officially part of the U.S. Constitution. Today, August 26th is celebrated annually as Women's Equality Day.

FLORIDA QUICK FACTS

- Florida ratified the 19th Amendment on May 13, 1969.
- After Congress passed the 19th Amendment in June 1919, states across the country held special sessions between 1919-1920 to vote on ratification. However, the Florida Legislature did not hold a vote during this time period, and became the 43rd state to ratify the amendment in 1969.
- Suffragists such as Ella C. Chamberlain, Mary Nolan, and Julia Norris were active in Florida.
- Suffrage organizations in Florida included the Florida Women's Suffrage Association and the Florida Equal Franchise League.



SUFFRAGIST AND
LAWYER INEZ
MILHOLLAND AT A
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
PARADE IN NEW YORK
CITY, MAY 3, 1913.

LEARN THE HISTORY

ORIGINAL SOURCE: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FLORIDA AND THE 19TH AMENDMENT

RATIFICATION DATE: MAY 13, 1969

Women first organized and collectively fought for suffrage at the national level in July of 1848. Suffragists such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott convened a meeting of over 300 people in Seneca Falls, New York. In the following decades, women marched, protested, lobbied, and even went to jail. By the 1870s, women pressured Congress to vote on an amendment that would recognize their suffrage rights. This amendment was sometimes known as the Susan B. Anthony amendment and became the 19th Amendment.

The amendment reads:

"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."

In the late 1800s, regional suffrage organizations began to form in states across the US. But the suffrage movement had roots in abolitionism (movement to end slavery). As a result, southern women's suffrage groups were slower to organize. Organized efforts to promote women's suffrage lagged in Florida until Ella C. Chamberlain founded the Florida Women's Suffrage Association in 1893. But when Chamberlain moved out of state four years later, the organization disbanded.

Women's suffrage did not have widespread support in the state until the 1910s when groups like the Florida Equal Franchise League and the Orlando Suffrage League were founded. Many women's suffrage groups in Florida often only supported the white woman's right to vote. As a result, African American women were frequently excluded from the suffrage organizations of white women.

Women from Florida were also involved in national organizations like the National Woman's Party. By the late 1910s, their efforts were paying off. After decades of arguments for and against women's suffrage, Congress finally approved the 19th Amendment in 1919. After Congress passed the 19th Amendment, at least

36 states needed to vote in favor of it for it to become law. This process is called ratification.

States across the US held special sessions to vote on the amendment. Some states ratified the amendment while others voted to reject it. Florida, however, did not hold a vote on the amendment. Many politicians and newspapers in the state were against women's suffrage.

On August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment, recognizing women's right to vote. On May 13, 1969, Florida showed its support for women's suffrage by belatedly ratifying the 19th Amendment.

Florida Places of Women's Suffrage: State Capitol Building

In 1913, the Equal Franchise League of Jacksonville petitioned the Legislature to consider a bill recognizing women's suffrage rights. Suffragists were given the opportunity to speak at an evening session that April in front of the state representatives. Citizens packed the Capitol Building to hear the argument for women's suffrage. The bill was rejected and Florida women had to wait another seven years to exercise the right to vote. The Florida Capitol Building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It no longer houses the state legislature, but operates as the Florida Historic Capitol Museum. It is open seven days a week.

Source:

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/florida-and-the-19th-amendment.htm>

COMMEMORATE ACROSS YOUR STATE

-  **Issue Proclamations or Executive Orders:** Encourage your Governor and Mayors across the state to issue a commemorative proclamation or executive order to recognize your state's or community's role in the women's suffrage movement, designate August 26, 2020 as Women's Equality Day, or designate 2020 as "The Year of Florida Women." Find samples and templates at womensvote100.org/resolutionsandorders.
-  **Pass Resolutions:** Encourage your state legislature, city councils, and town councils to pass commemorative resolutions to recognize your state's or community's role in the women's suffrage movement, designate August 26, 2020 as Women's Equality Day, or reaffirm your state's or community's commitment to the 19th Amendment and to uplifting women's voices. Find samples and templates at womensvote100.org/resolutionsandorders.
-  **Join the Forward Into Light Campaign:** On August 26, 2020, buildings and landmarks across the country will light up in purple and gold to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and women's right to vote. This nationwide celebration of the centennial is named for the historical suffrage slogan, "Forward through the Darkness, Forward into Light." Work with leaders, organizations, and communities in your state to celebrate women's right to vote in the official suffrage colors of purple and gold, from the State Capitol to skyscrapers to bridges to city halls.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FLORIDA

- In 2019, the Florida Legislature passed a bill signed by Governor Ron DeSantis forming the Florida Women's Suffrage Centennial Commemoration Committee, charged with ensuring a statewide observance of the centennial of women's suffrage in 2020.
- From April 6 - May 25, 2019, the Florida Historic Capitol Museum hosted One Half of the People: Advancing Equality for Women, a traveling exhibit by the National Archives.

GET INSPIRED

COMING UP IN 2020



**FORWARD
INTO LIGHT**



**PROJECT 19
SKYDIVERS**



**VOTES FOR
WOMEN TRAIL**



**CENTENNIAL
RIDE**

Forward Into Light: As part of the WSCC's Forward Into Light campaign, states across the country will light their buildings and landmarks in purple and gold on August 26, 2020, the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Some states started commemorating the centennial with lightings in 2019, including Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Virginia. Are you in for August 26, 2020? Contact the WSCC for more information.

Project 19: Led by the Women's Skydiving Network (WSN), Project 19 is a planned jump of 100 women skydivers in July 2020 outside of Chicago in celebration of the centennial of women's right to vote. The WSN also has a sponsored all-women Professional Demonstration Team, which is scheduling jumps (at no charge!) during 19th Amendment celebrations around the country throughout 2020. For more information, contact Team Captain Melanie Curtis at mel@melaniecurtis.com.

Votes for Women Trail: The National Votes for Women Trail is a project led by the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites to place historic markers at locations relevant to the history of the women's suffrage movement in all 50 states. The WSCC is partnering with the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites to complete the Trail in 2020. Visit womensvote100.org/votes-for-women-trail to follow the Trail and find historic sites in your state.

Centennial Ride: In honor of the centennial of the 19th Amendment, hundreds of women and men will participate in a cross-country motorcycle tour in 2020. Riders will leave from ten different starting cities around the country, and more than 1,000 riders will converge on Washington, D.C. on August 26, 2020. Learn more at www.centennialride.com.

PLAN AN EVENT



"WE KNOCK AT THE BAR OF JUSTICE, ASKING AN EQUAL CHANCE."

-Mary Church Terrell, suffragist & founder of the National Association of Colored Women, 1898

- **What:** Hold a press conference, reception, or public program commemorating the centennial of the 19th Amendment and women's right to vote. Keep reading for examples and ideas!
- **Where:** Host an event at your State Capitol or City Hall, or at a historic site, museum, school, university, or community center. Find a list of historic sites and places in Florida along the National Votes for Women Trail at womensvote100.org/get-involved.
- **When:** Events celebrating the centennial can be held anytime throughout 2020, but particularly important dates include Black History Month (February), Women's History Month (March), and June-August 2020, building up to the official centennial date on August 26, 2020.
- **Who:** Invite members of your community to your event, as well as state or local leaders such as your Governor, First Lady/First Partner, Members of Congress, State Legislators, Mayor, or local Council Members. Invite a guest speaker, such as a women's suffrage historian, and invite historic performers to portray famous women of history. Find a list of historians and performers at womensvote100.org/get-involved.
- **Additional Details:** The suffragists wore white dresses to display their unity, and the yellow rose became a symbol of the movement's ultimate victory. At your commemorative event, decorate the room with yellow roses, suggest your guests dress in white attire, and offer replica Votes for Women pins, which can be provided by the WSCC.

Relevant Organizations in Your State:

- Florida Commission on the Status of Women: fcsw.net
- Florida Historic Capitol Museum: flhistoriccapitol.gov
- Florida Historical Society: myfloridahistory.org
- Florida League of Cities: flcities.com
- Florida Women's Hall of Fame: flwomenshalloffame.org
- Florida Women's Heritage Trail: dos.myflorida.com/historical/preservation/heritage-trails/womens-heritage-trail
- Florida Women's Suffrage Centennial Commemoration Committee: fcsw.net/2020-centennial
- Museum of Florida History: museumoffloridahistory.com

PLAN AN EVENT



"MEN, THEIR RIGHTS, AND NOTHING MORE; WOMEN, THEIR RIGHTS, AND NOTHING LESS."
Susan B. Anthony & Elizabeth Cady Stanton, c.1868

MORE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IDEAS

Street Renaming: Through your Mayor's office, change the name of a street in your city in honor of a local suffragist.

Suffrage Exhibits: Work with your local historical society to create an exhibit about your community's suffrage story.

Purple and Gold Fireworks: At your State Fair, County Fair, or community gathering, feature a display of purple and gold fireworks.

Musical Performances: Hold a concert featuring female composers or original music from the suffrage movement, which can be found online through the Library of Congress's searchable archives.

Film Screenings: Host screenings of films focused on the suffrage movement or women's empowerment, such as *Iron Jawed Angels*, *Suffragette*, or *A League of Their Own*.

Suffrage Floats: Include a suffrage-themed float in state and local parades.

Community Murals: Hire a local artist to create a suffrage-themed mural in your community that tells the story of the suffrage movement in your state.

Suffrage Centennial Races: Take the lead from the National Park Service's Race to Ratification and hold a suffrage-themed 5K or 10k in summer 2020.

Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon: Work with Wikipedia to plan an "Edit-a-Thon" focused on your state and local suffrage history.

Suffrage Essay or Art Contests: Hold an essay or art contest for students on topics related to your state and local suffrage history.

Suffrage Book Club: Form a book club with a locally owned bookstore to read and discuss books about the women's suffrage movement.

Plantings of Yellow Roses: Plant yellow roses in your home, school, or community gardens and share photos on social media using the hashtags #WomensVote100, #SuffrageSisters, and #SuffraGents.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

STAY ENGAGED

- Follow @WomensVote100 on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
- Check out the “Suffrage Sisters” YouTube channel
- Subscribe to our e-newsletter at womensvote100.org
- Keep an eye on our Florida page at womensvote100.org/florida

FIND RESOURCES

- womensvote100.org/learn
- womensvote100.org/news
- womensvote100.org/states

Use these hashtags on social media to engage with your community during this historic moment:

#WomensVote100
#SuffrageSisters
#SuffraGents

SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Instagram

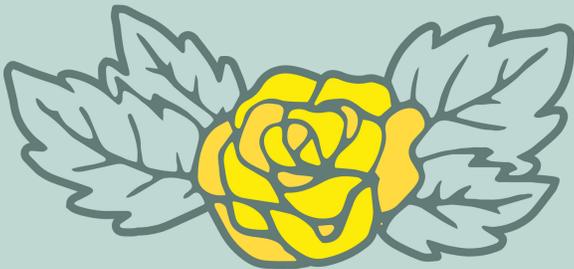


Facebook



THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION



QUESTIONS?

CONTACT KIMBERLY WALLNER
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KIMBERLY@WOMENSVOTE100.ORG