

A RESOLUTION 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 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the U.S. 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, although women did not have the right to vote before 1919, the 19th Constitutional amendment was passed by Congress in 1919 giving women the right to vote, and was ratified by three-fourths of the states in 1920; and

WHEREAS, each year beginning in 1923, the Equal Rights Amendment was introduced as a bill in Congress 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 finally passed the Equal Rights Amendment in 1972 but then limited the time for ratification by the necessary 38 states to seven (7) years; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment was quickly ratified by 30 states by 1973 but then the ratification process slowed as opposition grew; and

WHEREAS, by 1979, which was the seven (7) year deadline, only 35 states had ratified the Equal Rights Amendment; and

WHEREAS, since 1979, two (2) more states have ratified the Equal Rights Amendment, but the 37 states still fall just one state short of the 38 states which must ratify the Equal Rights Amendment; and

WHEREAS, at this time, which is almost 100 years after women getting the right to vote, women have the right to vote but still lack equality under the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment would guarantee under the Constitution that all people are equal and 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; and

WHEREAS, only one more state is needed to achieve the 38-state threshold to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, this Board approved Resolution 03-95 supporting the inclusion of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the conditions in place in 2003 continue to be germane today requiring a reaffirmation by this Board of the tenets and reasoning for supporting the approval of the Equal Right Amendment.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners to support the Equal Rights Amendment and request that the Federal Delegation strongly urge the United States Congress to make a deliberate and thorough effort to support SJ. Resolution 6 to remove the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and allow for its ratification once the 38th state votes to ratify.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that that this County Commission supports the State of Florida becoming the 38th 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 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that that this County Commission hereby instructs the County Clerk to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Federal Delegation, the Local Delegation and the Governor of the State of Florida.

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted at a regular meeting of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners held 24th day of September, 2019.

Commissioner _____ Long _____ offered the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner _____ Gerard _____, and upon roll call the vote was:

AYES Seel, Gerard, Justice, Long, Peters, and Welch.

NAYES None.

Absent not voting Eggers.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By: 
Office of the County Attorney