

Resolution

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 13

By: David, Floyd, Treat, Allen,
Bergstrom, Bice, Boggs,
Boren, Brooks, Bullard,
Coleman, Dahm, Daniels,
Dossett, Dugger, Hall,
Haste, Hicks, Howard,
Ikley-Freeman, Jech, Kidd,
Kirt, Leewright, Matthews,
McCortney, Montgomery,
Murdock, Newhouse, Paxton,
Pederson, Pemberton, Pugh,
Quinn, Rader, Rosino,
Scott, Sharp, Shaw, Silk,
Simpson, Standridge,
Stanislowski, Stanley,
Thompson, Weaver and Young

A Resolution commemorating the 100th anniversary of Oklahoma's ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granting women the right to vote.

WHEREAS, the effort to secure women's suffrage in Oklahoma began prior to statehood when, in 1890, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union lobbied territorial lawmakers for the right to vote in school elections. In 1897 and again in 1899, the Oklahoma Territory Equal Suffrage Association lobbied the territorial Legislature to pass voting-rights bills, though neither attempt was successful; and

WHEREAS, despite those defeats, the effort to gain voting rights continued. In 1904, women from Oklahoma and Indian territories formed the Twin Territorial Woman Suffrage Association. In 1906, the Oklahoma Woman Suffrage Association was formed; and

WHEREAS, suffragists sought voting rights at the Oklahoma Constitutional Convention of 1906, but opponents, led by president of the convention, William H. Murray, blocked women's suffrage except in school elections; and

WHEREAS, even though women were denied the right to vote, Oklahomans elected child advocate and social reformer Kate Barnard to be the state's first Commissioner of Charities and Corrections. Barnard won the race by a greater plurality than any other candidate in the 1907 general election, becoming the first woman to hold statewide office in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, in March 1917, the state Legislature approved Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5 on universal women's suffrage. On November 5, 1918, Oklahoma voters approved the amendment to the state's constitution making Oklahoma the twenty-first state to give women the right to vote, almost two years before suffrage was ratified at the national level; and

WHEREAS, on June 4, 1919, Congress approved the 19th Amendment which stated that "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." At least 36 states were needed to support the amendment; and

WHEREAS, on February 28, 1920, Oklahoma became the 33rd state to approve the 19th Amendment. By August of that year, 36 states including Oklahoma had ratified the amendment ensuring the right to vote could not be denied based on sex; and

WHEREAS, since the ratification of the 19th Amendment, Oklahoma women have been elected to the top leadership posts in the state, serving as Governor, Lieutenant Governor, statewide offices, congressional and legislative seats and holding leadership positions in the State Legislature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 57TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commemorates the 100th anniversary of Oklahoma's ratification of the 19th Amendment on February 28, 2020.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate acknowledges and applauds the efforts of multiple individuals and organizations throughout the state's history to secure suffrage for women, guaranteeing future generations the ability to participate fully in the political process as voters, leaders and officeholders.

Adopted by the Senate the 27th day of February, 2020.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____
day of _____, 20 _____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.
By: _____