

State of Misconsin 2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

2019 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 37

- May 14, 2019 Introduced by Senators BERNIER, JOHNSON, BEWLEY, DARLING, RINGHAND, SCHACHTNER, SHILLING, L. TAYLOR, CARPENTER, COWLES, CRAIG, ERPENBACH, FEYEN, FITZGERALD, HANSEN, JACQUE, KAPENGA, KOOYENGA, LARSON, LEMAHIEU, MARKLEIN, MILLER, NASS, OLSEN, PETROWSKI, RISSER, ROTH, SMITH, STROEBEL, TESTIN, TIFFANY, WANGGAARD and WIRCH, cosponsored by Representatives Ballweg, Billings, Brandtjen, Cabrera, Dittrich, DUCHOW, EMERSON, FELZKOWSKI, HESSELBEIN, KERKMAN, KOLSTE, LOUDENBECK, MAGNAFICI, B. MEYERS, L. MYERS, NEUBAUER, POPE, RODRIGUEZ, SARGENT, SHANKLAND, SINICKI, STUBBS, STUCK, SUBECK, C. TAYLOR, VANDERMEER, VINING, ZAMARRIPA, ALLEN, ANDERSON, AUGUST, BORN, BOWEN, BROOKS, BROSTOFF, CONSIDINE, CROWLEY, DOYLE, EDMING, FIELDS, GOYKE, GRUSZYNSKI, GUNDRUM, HAYWOOD, HEBL, HINTZ, HORLACHER, HUTTON, JAGLER, JAMES, KATSMA, KITCHENS, KNODL, KRUG, KUGLITSCH, KULP, KURTZ, MACCO, MILROY, MURPHY, MURSAU, NEYLON, NOVAK, NYGREN, OHNSTAD, OLDENBURG, OTT, PETERSEN, PETRYK, PLUMER, PRONSCHINSKE, QUINN, RAMTHUN, RIEMER, ROHRKASTE, SANFELIPPO, SCHRAA, SKOWRONSKI, SNYDER, SPIROS, SPREITZER, STAFSHOLT, STEFFEN, STEINEKE, SUMMERFIELD, SWEARINGEN, TAUCHEN, THIESFELDT, TITTL, TRANEL, TUSLER, VORPAGEL, VOS, VRUWINK, WICHGERS, WITTKE and ZIMMERMAN. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.
- 1 **Relating to:** celebrating June 10, 2019, as the 100th Anniversary of ratifying the
- 2 19th Amendment.
- 3 Whereas, June 10, 2019, marks the 100th anniversary of Wisconsin leading the
- 4 nation as the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment, allowing women the right to
- 5 vote; and
- 6 Whereas, Wisconsin women fought for the right to vote for more than a century
- 7 before it was granted and persevered in the face of resistance; and
- 8 Whereas, the national constitutional amendment for women's suffrage passed
- 9 overwhelmingly in the Wisconsin Assembly 54 to 2 and in the Wisconsin Senate 25
- 10 to 1; and
- 11 Whereas, to be the first state, Wisconsin raced with Illinois and Michigan,
- 12 appointing former State Senator David James as special messenger to transfer the

1	certification to Washington, D.C., with James hand-delivering the certification
2	moments before the Illinois messenger arrived; and
3	Whereas, Wisconsin became the first state to file the certification, other states
4	soon followed; and
5	Whereas, the necessary 36 states soon ratified the 19th Amendment; half of the
6	U.S. population was enfranchised on August 26, 1920; and
7	Whereas, the fight for women's suffrage, from the first women's rights
8	convention to enfranchisement, lasted 72 years, with women from all walks of life,
9	political views, and demographic backgrounds asking for the right to voice their
10	opinions at the polls; and
11	Whereas, Wisconsin women by the thousands advocated for the right to vote on
12	the streets, in newspapers, and in the state and federal capitols; and
13	Whereas, Wisconsin-born Carrie Chapman Catt led the national movement,
14	meeting with President Woodrow Wilson to secure his support for suffrage in light
15	of women's contributions during World War I; and
16	Whereas, Wisconsin women, like former First Lady Belle Case LaFollette and
17	Reverend Olympia Brown, garnered national attention for their suffrage efforts; and
18	Whereas, Ada James took women's right to vote to the streets and re-energized
19	suffrage efforts in 1912; and
20	Whereas, Theodora Winton Youmans helped heal the state's suffragists after
21	the failure of the 1912 referendum and continued the movement to educate
22	Wisconsin residents on the benefits of women voters; and
23	Whereas, women had been organized under the statewide structure of the
24	Wisconsin Woman's Suffrage Association since 1869; and

1	Whereas, it took male allies to support women in their endeavor to vote, for it
2	was sons, husbands, and fathers who ultimately heard the calls of women and took
3	this historic vote on June 10, 1919; and
4	Whereas, daughters, granddaughters, and great-granddaughters of the
5	women who fought so hard to vote have been making their voices heard at the polls
6	for nearly 100 years; and
7	Whereas, most of the women who began asking for the right to vote never lived
8	to see the enfranchisement of women; and
9	Whereas, women are running for office in unprecedented numbers, may
10	current politicians, both male and female, remember that they follow in the footsteps
11	of these great suffragists; and
12	Whereas, the Wisconsin Women's Suffrage Association was empowered by the
13	slogan "Women's Suffrage Yesterday, Today and Forever," and Wisconsin still
14	embodies this principle today; now, therefore, be it
15	Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the Wisconsin
16	State Legislature celebrates June 10, 2019, as the 100th Anniversary of ratifying the
17	19th Amendment and reaffirms Wisconsin's commitment to empowering and
18	uplifting the voices of women across our great state.
19	(END)