

1 WHEREAS, This year, 2020, is the 100th anniversary of the 1920
2 ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution
3 stating that "The right of citizens of the United States to vote
4 shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State
5 on account of sex"; and

6 WHEREAS, Today marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the
7 National League of Women Voters, and the inception of the League of
8 Women Voters of Washington; and

9 WHEREAS, The National Council of Women Voters, a nonpartisan
10 educational organization headquartered in Tacoma, Washington, was the
11 first national organization of voting women, led by Emma Smith DeVoe,
12 who emphasized the importance of voting on issues rather than by
13 party; and

14 WHEREAS, Emma Smith DeVoe led the charge to enfranchise women in
15 the state of Washington, and helped transform the face of suffragist
16 politics in the United States; and

17 WHEREAS, The State of Washington granted the right to vote to
18 women a full decade earlier in 1910, inspiring a nationwide campaign
19 that led to the enfranchisement of women throughout the country; and

20 WHEREAS, 100 years ago today, on February 14, 1920, the National
21 Council of Women Voters merged with the National American Woman
22 Suffrage Association, headed by president Carrie Chapman Catt, Susan

1 B. Anthony's successor, forming one national suffragist organization,
2 the League of Women Voters; and

3 WHEREAS, For 100 years, the Seattle and Tacoma chapters of the
4 League have been at the forefront of civic engagement in Washington
5 State, educating millions of our residents in order for them to
6 become informed participants in government; and

7 WHEREAS, For 100 years, the League has lived its conviction that
8 "the vote is the emblem of equality" through its campaigns, focusing
9 on policies to increase access to voting, combating voter
10 discrimination, opposing voter photo identification laws, and
11 promoting provoter reforms; and

12 WHEREAS, The nonpartisan Voters Pamphlet that precedes each
13 election in Washington is an example of the League's ongoing
14 educational effort; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1993, the League was a key player in passing the
16 National Voter Registration Act, also known as the Motor Voter Act,
17 making registration fast and easy; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2018 alone, 4.2 million voters' rights were protected
19 through the League's education, advocacy, and litigation efforts to
20 create an informed and educated electorate; and

21 WHEREAS, From the beginning, equal rights and social reform have
22 been the bedrock for the League's work addressing child welfare,
23 maternal and child health programs, child labor protections and
24 discriminatory laws against women; and

25 WHEREAS, Within the societal unrest of the 1960s, the League
26 focused its efforts on civil rights issues of equal access to
27 education, housing and employment; and

28 WHEREAS, With the support of the League in Washington state, the
29 Housing Trust Fund, amendments to welfare reform, and increased
30 appropriations for children's services led to the establishment of a
31 governor's commission for children in the 1980s; and

32 WHEREAS, In the 1990s, the League took positions in support of
33 LGBTQ rights, supported protections from discrimination based on
34 sexual orientation in employment and lobbied for antiharassment
35 policies and training guidelines in the "save schools bill"; and

36 WHEREAS, The League has historically been concerned with
37 conservation of natural resources, and protection of public lands,
38 and is currently focused on initiatives, task forces, and studies
39 that concentrate on climate change, resource management, and
40 environmental planning and incentives; and

1 WHEREAS, The League continue to study, adopt positions, advocate,
2 and serve the community, and register educated voters to this day;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, From voters' rights, to child labor laws, to climate
5 change, to government restructuring; the League of Women Voters is
6 not only a leader in addressing these issues, but a reflection of the
7 needs of our community and a protector of our democratic processes;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That on this day, February 14,
9 2020, the League of Women Voters of the United States, as the
10 organization came to be called, is celebrating 100 years of
11 empowering voters through education, nonpartisanship, inclusion,
12 collaboration, and grassroots democracy; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we do now commend and honor the
14 League of Women Voters for continuously strengthening democracy
15 through shaping public policy on equal rights and social reforms; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The League that began as a "mighty
17 political experiment" designed to help millions of women to become
18 responsible voters is truly a hallmark of our democracy.

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