

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, suffrage is the right to vote in political elections, and the Women's Suffrage Movement in the United States was a long, hard-fought battle for equality in the elections of the nation's leaders, policies and laws that govern our lives; and

WHEREAS, the suffrage and women's rights movements are the very roots of women in politics and their rise in national leadership today, and many of the dedicated suffragists spent their entire lifetime advocating, sacrificing greatly for the right to vote in America's elections, and they persevered with their motto "**Forward through the Darkness, Forward into Light**," and their efforts paved the way, empowering future generations of women to participate at the polls for themselves, their families, and their communities; and

WHEREAS, a constitutional amendment allowing voting rights to women was introduced to Congress in 1878, which failed; thereafter on January 10, 1918, the amendment was passed by the United States House of Representatives, and on June 4, 1919, the United States Senate passed it and then sent it to the states for ratification, and on the historical day of August 26, 1919, the Nineteenth Amendment was certified as part of the United States Constitution, assuring 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***, and it is important to note that not all women were given voting rights including those of color, immigrants, lower income women and Native Americans as they were deterred from voting by laws or social pressure; and

WHEREAS, women of every race, class, and ethnic background throughout history have been leaders and contributed greatly to our nation, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in other important movements including abolitionist, emancipation, industrial labor, civil rights, and other historic and important causes that have and continue to shape our nation; and

WHEREAS, Women's Suffrage Centennial Day, also known as Women's Equality Day was established to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment and to honor the past and the efforts of many who were instrumental in bringing voting rights to women, and many organizations around the nation will celebrate this occasion including the Turning Point National Suffragist Memorial, and locally, the General Federation of Woman's Clubs (GFWC) Tampa Woman's Club whose early members were among those women who fought for the right to vote.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, August 26, 2020 as

"WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in paying tribute to the determined and dedicated women who worked tirelessly to bring the Nineteen Amendment to fruition on August 26, 1919, and to honor them by exercising your right to vote at every election opportunity.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 17th day of August 2020.





Mayor