

## **CENTENNIAL SUFFRAGE DECLARATION**

WHEREAS, Indigenous women have served as leaders in the place we now call Wisconsin for thousands of years, and

WHEREAS, Indigenous women fought and negotiated for their Nations' land and rights, demonstrating their prowess and earning names such as Washington Women and Morning Glory, and

WHEREAS, Indigenous women continued to fight for their rights in the polls through the 1924 Indian Citizenship Act and beyond, and

WHEREAS, African American women faced discrimination and oppression for centuries in the United States, and

WHEREAS, African American women were purposefully excluded from suffrage organizations around the country due to blatant racism, but persevered and organized as suffragists, club women, and citizens making their voices heard, and

WHEREAS, African American women were not enfranchised by the 15<sup>th</sup> or fully by the 19<sup>th</sup> amendments but had to keep fighting for their vote until the 1965 Voting Rights Act and well beyond, and

WHEREAS, ancestors of the Latina American population called some of the land we now call the United States home long before those areas gained statehood but still faced discrimination in the polls, being forced to pay poll taxes and take literacy tests to exercise their rights until the Voting Acts Right of 1965 and well beyond, and

WHEREAS, Latina Americans have been immigrating to Wisconsin for over a century for opportunities for themselves and their families, and

WHEREAS, Latina Americans continue to immigrate to Wisconsin and the United States, facing language barriers and prejudice and are still working to gain and collect their rights as citizens, and

WHEREAS, while the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment allowed many women to vote, minority women faced additional forms of discrimination so the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was an important but imperfect piece of legislation, needing to be strengthened by additional legislation in 1970, 1975, and 1982. Even now there are people still fighting for their voices in the polls, and

WHEREAS, the history of Wisconsin's women's suffrage movement is not a diverse one, we are a diverse state, and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin women are all unique, with different occupations, races, marital statuses, religions, education levels, economic statuses, sexual orientations, ages, and more but we are all unified by identifying as women, and therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that as women we will make our voices heard in the polls and in political offices across this great state to form a better Wisconsin for future generations so that women and men may fully realize their rights as citizens and people.



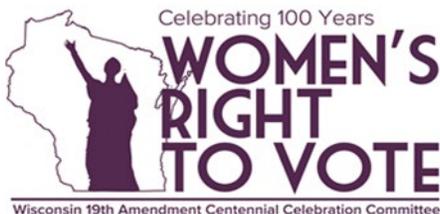
---

First Lady Kathy Evers  
The Wisconsin 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment  
Centennial Celebration Committee



---

Christian W. Overland  
The Ruth and Hartley Barker Director  
Wisconsin Historical Society



WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

