

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; on August 26, 1920, the U.S. Secretary of State officially certified the 19th Amendment's addition to the Constitution, granting millions of women throughout our country the right to vote; and

WHEREAS; American women had been fighting for suffrage since they first demanded the right to vote at the 1848 women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York; and

WHEREAS; in the 72 years between the Seneca Falls Convention and the 19th Amendment's certification, suffrage became a cornerstone of the women's rights movement; and

WHEREAS; following World War I, during which women filled important and respected jobs in factories and hospitals to aid the war effort, suffragists reaffirmed their commitment to achieving democracy at home, just as American soldiers had fought for democracy abroad; and

WHEREAS; despite the many barriers faced by the suffragists – including a deadly influenza pandemic that struck the United States in 1918 – they successfully forwarded their fight through Congress in the summer of 1919; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin women were leaders in advocating for suffrage across our nation and, in fact, Wisconsin became the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment on June 10, 1919; and

WHEREAS; for another 15 months, women organized campaigns throughout our country to achieve ratification by the three-fourths of states required to add the 19th Amendment to the Constitution; and

WHEREAS; over the past 100 years, women have continued to be leaders in the fight to guarantee voting rights, advocating for the passage of the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and many other landmark pieces of legislation; and

WHEREAS; while a vital and foundational milestone, the 19th Amendment was just the beginning – many people of color would not be granted the right to vote for another 45 years and still, today, there is more work to be done to ensure that voting is easy and accessible for every person; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion, we are reminded that the fight for our country's fundamental values of democracy, justice, and equality continues regardless of war, pandemic, or other disruptions; and

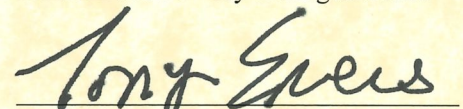
WHEREAS; in this centennial year, the state of Wisconsin celebrates and honors our suffragists and their struggle by working to ensure that every person is able to exercise the right to vote that so many fought so hard to secure;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim August 26, 2020, as the

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADDITION OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand and caused the
Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be
affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of
Madison this 20th day of August 2020.


TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:


DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State

