

2020 LAW DAY PROCLAMATION
“Your Vote • Your Voice • Our Democracy:
The 19th Amendment at 100.”

WHEREAS: The United States is commemorating the centennial of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed 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.”

WHEREAS: The text that would become the 19th Amendment in 1920 was first proposed in Congress in 1878;

WHEREAS: Many states granted women the right to vote in advance of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. They included Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Idaho, Washington, California, Oregon, Montana, Arizona, Kansas, Alaska, Illinois, North Dakota, Indiana, Nebraska, Michigan, Arkansas, New York, South Dakota, and Oklahoma;

WHEREAS: Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan were the first states to ratify the 19th Amendment, all on June 10, 1919, six days after it was approved by Congress. Tennessee was the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment, the number then required to incorporate it into the U.S. Constitution and make it the law of the land;

WHEREAS: Although formal voting rights could no longer be denied because of race or sex after ratification of the 15th and 19th Amendments, many voters still faced ballot restrictions, including registration rules, literacy tests, poll taxes, and moral and residency requirements;

WHEREAS: There were 81.3 million women registered to vote in the United States as of 2018, comprising 53% of the electorate;

WHEREAS: American women fought for, and won, the vote through their voice and action. The women’s suffrage movement forever changed America, expanding representative democracy and inspiring other popular movements for constitutional change and reform.

WHEREAS: the 2020 Law Day theme is “Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100.”

NOW THEREFORE, I _____, Mayor/Governor/City Council Chair/etc. of _____, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2020, as Law Day. I call upon the people of the City/State of _____ to acknowledge the importance of our legal and judicial systems with appropriate ceremonies and activities, and to display the flag of the United States and our city/state in support of this educational observance. I further encourage schools, businesses, media, religious institutions, civic and service organizations to join members of the bar and bench in commemorating Law Day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this _____ day of _____, in the year two thousand nineteen.

(Signature)