



# Proclamation



## WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

**WHEREAS**, in 1971, due to the efforts of Representative Bella Abzug (D-NY), the United States Congress designated August 26 as “Women’s Equality Day;” and

**WHEREAS**, this date was selected to commemorate the passage in 1920 of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution, granting all women in the United States the right to vote; this was the culmination of a massive, peaceful civil rights movement by women that had its formal beginnings in 1848 at the world’s first women’s rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York; and

**WHEREAS**, while this observance of Women’s Equality Day is to commemorate the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, its purpose is also to call attention to continuing efforts to achieve full equality for women; despite having attained the right to vote 99 years ago, women in the United States continue to struggle to be treated as equals with their male counterparts; and

**WHEREAS**, for example, a gender pay gap still exists; based on data from 2017, full-time working women earn just 80.5 cents for every dollar a man earns; this is why many women’s advocates urge the passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would comprehensively update and strengthen the Equal Pay Act of 1963; and

**WHEREAS**, while recent years have seen some positive trends, women are still under-represented in many positions of leadership in the United States; for example, only 9 of our 50 states have female governors; of the 535 members of the U.S. Congress, only 127, or 23.7%, are women; per a 2017 report by the American Council on Education, women represented only 30% of college presidents, and a mere 8% of doctorate-granting institutions were led by women; and

**WHEREAS**; in a climate of intensifying political and social tensions, with hard-won rights seemingly at risk, we must remain positive, focused and energized as we celebrate the achievements of the past, and look forward to a future in which all people share equally in the promise of this country.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor of Carrboro, North Carolina, proclaim Monday, August 26, 2019 as **Women’s Equality Day** in the Town of Carrboro. I urge all residents of Carrboro to reflect on the history of women’s rights in this country, to honor the work of those who sought, and continue to seek, equality for women, and to work collectively to achieve full equality for all women.

This, the 26th day of August 2019.



Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor