



Proclamation



WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

WHEREAS, on August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was certified, thereby providing women in the United States with the right to vote, a right for which women had long struggled; and

WHEREAS, from the outset, this right was not universally applied; throughout much of the United States, African-American women, Native-American women, and women of other minority groups remained shut out of the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, as we commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, it is vital that we reflect honestly on the state of our nation and its efforts to provide equality and justice for all people; there is much to celebrate, but the struggle for equality is not yet complete, and constant vigilance is needed to ensure that the rights and freedoms that have been won are not eroded; and

WHEREAS, despite generations of effort, a gender wage gap persists, with women earning 82 cents for every dollar earned by men; also, women are still under-represented in positions of leadership, holding 23.7% of the seats in the House of Representatives and 26 of the 100 seats in the Senate, women hold 9 of the 50 governorships, and 7.4% of Fortune 500 CEO positions are held by women; and

WHEREAS, in our aspirations for a future that holds a more fully realized vision of equality and justice, we can take inspiration from those who have bravely and steadfastly struggled for these goals in the past, including women such as Eva Clayton, the first African-American woman elected to Congress in North Carolina; Susan Dimock, the first woman to become a doctor in North Carolina; and Susie Marshall Sharp, the first woman to become a judge in North Carolina and the first woman to sit on the North Carolina Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, in a climate of intensifying political and social tensions 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 Wednesday, August 26, 2020 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 2020.



Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor