

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 35

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND RECOGNIZING AUGUST 26, 2020, AS
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE DAY.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, in July 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott organized America's first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York, where they drafted the Declaration of Sentiments, calling for women's equality and suffrage; and

WHEREAS, the women's suffrage movement attempted to be inclusive and diverse, recruiting allies such as Frederick Douglass, a former slave and leader of the abolition movement who also championed women's suffrage and attended the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848; and other prominent African American suffragists, such as Mary Church Terrell, the first president and one of the founding members of the National Association of Colored Women; Ida B. Wells-Barnett of Chicago, who courageously fought against lynching; and Adella Hunt Logan, a faculty member at the Tuskegee Institute and an activist for education; and

WHEREAS, in 1869, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton organized the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA), and that same year Lucy Stone and her husband Henry Brown Blackwell, along with Julia Ward Howe and Henry Ward Beecher, formed the American Woman Suffrage Association; and

WHEREAS, at the time, the formation of two women's suffrage organizations was necessary given the divide over language of the newly proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution, today's Fifteenth Amendment, extending suffrage to African American men; and

WHEREAS, in 1870, after the required three-fourths of states ratified the Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, granting African American men the right to vote, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and other suffragists signed and sent a voting rights petition to the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives requesting that suffrage rights be extended to women; and

WHEREAS, the Territorial Legislature of Wyoming and the State Legislatures of Utah, Colorado, and Idaho enfranchised the women of their jurisdictions between 1869 and 1896, becoming the first four states to grant women the vote; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's Territorial Legislature first debated extending women suffrage in 1870 when Malad City Representative Dr. Joseph William Morgan introduced a bill to enfranchise women; and

WHEREAS, in 1879, and again in 1885, Idaho's Territorial Legislature extended partial suffrage to Idaho women, and in 1889 Idaho's Constitutional Convention heard presentations from suffragists Abigail Jane Scott Duniway and Henrietta Skelton in support of women's suffrage, and in 1896, after a

1 unanimous decision by Idaho's Supreme Court, Idaho's constitutional amend-
2 ment extending suffrage to women became law; and

3 WHEREAS, between 1896 and 1917, women from suffrage states, includ-
4 ing Idaho, advocated for the vote for women across the country by holding
5 parades, rallies, events, and finally picketing campaigns in front of the
6 White House; and

7 WHEREAS, by 1918, these efforts gained the attention of President
8 Woodrow Wilson and resulted in the Sixty-fifth U.S. Congress's action to
9 bring a proposed women's suffrage amendment to the floor of the U.S. House of
10 Representatives; and

11 WHEREAS, despite defeat of the 1918 suffrage amendment in the U.S. Sen-
12 ate, the Sixty-sixth Congress introduced the proposed amendment, and on May
13 21, 1919, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the resolution, 304 to 90,
14 and on June 4, 1919, the Senate concurred, voting with a margin of 56 to 25,
15 thus creating House Joint Resolution No. 1, A Joint Resolution Proposing An
16 Amendment To the Constitution Extending the Right of Suffrage to Women; and

17 WHEREAS, governors across the country began to call upon their state's
18 legislatures to ratify the proposed amendment, with the result that, between
19 June 1919 and January 1920, 27 states had ratified the proposed women's suf-
20 frage amendment; and

21 WHEREAS, Idaho Governor D. W. Davis called an Extraordinary Session of
22 the Idaho Legislature on February 11, 1920, for the sole purpose of ratifying
23 the proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution extending the right of suf-
24 frage to women; and

25 WHEREAS, Governor Davis recognized in his address to the Legislature
26 on February 11, 1920, that Idaho had been "one of the leaders in extending
27 to women that progressive and altogether honorable principle of equal fran-
28 chise," and that it was therefore "particularly fitting ... that this State
29 which has enjoyed such privilege should now ratify the federal amendment
30 by which women are to be virtually freed from the narrow prejudices of the
31 past"; and

32 WHEREAS, Governor Davis also recognized that February 11, 1920, was to
33 be recorded "as an epoch-making day," whereby Idaho took "historical action
34 towards the complete enfranchisement of the women of our beloved country";
35 and

36 WHEREAS, members of the Idaho Legislature selected Idaho Representa-
37 tive Dr. Emma F. A. Drake, one of two women legislators from that session,
38 to introduce House Joint Resolution No. 1 ratifying the proposed amendment
39 to the U.S. Constitution extending the right of suffrage to women; and

40 WHEREAS, the Idaho House of Representatives voted unanimously in favor
41 of ratification, whereupon the Speaker declared the resolution passed, the
42 title was approved, and the resolution was transmitted to the Senate, which
43 voted 29 ayes, 6 nays, and 6 members absent and not voting; and

44 WHEREAS, following this momentous vote, on March 18, 1920, Idaho's Sec-
45 retary of State, Robert O. Jones, certified a copy of Idaho's "House Joint
46 Resolution No. 1, Passed at The Fifteenth Session of the Legislature of the
47 State of Idaho"; and

48 WHEREAS, on March 24, 1920, the United States Secretary of State, Bain-
49 bridge Colby, acknowledged receipt of the certified copy of Idaho's resolu-

1 tion and noted Idaho as the thirtieth state to ratify the proposed women's
2 suffrage amendment; and

3 WHEREAS, on August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the thirty-sixth state to
4 ratify the proposed women's suffrage amendment after the mother of 24-year-
5 old legislator Harry Burn insisted that he change his vote; and

6 WHEREAS, on August 26, 1920, the United States Secretary of State pro-
7 claimed that the women's suffrage amendment, the Nineteenth Amendment to the
8 U.S. Constitution, was in effect and had become part of the U.S. Constitu-
9 tion; and

10 WHEREAS, Native American women were given the right to vote on June 24,
11 1924, when the government granted citizenship to Native Americans through
12 the Indian Citizenship Act; and

13 WHEREAS, the year 2020 marks the hundredth anniversary of the ratifi-
14 cation of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, granting women
15 the right to vote.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
17 sion of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
18 the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature celebrates the profound
19 effect that women's suffrage has had on our state and our nation, impacting
20 policy and programs of great importance to our communities and greater soci-
21 ety.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature recognizes August 26, 2020,
23 as "Women's Suffrage Day" in honor of the ratification of the Nineteenth
24 Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourages Idahoans to cel-
26 ebrate Women's Suffrage Day with appropriate events and ceremonies.