



Equal Rights Amendment Proclamation

WHEREAS, the proposed Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) states that "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex;" and

WHEREAS, the ERA is a tool to ensure the full equality of people of any sex under the law in the United States of America, which could ensure that laws that perpetuate sex discrimination are met with the strictest judicial scrutiny; and

WHEREAS, women's labor, both paid and unpaid, has been fundamental to the growth and development of our cities, and should be valued equally with men's; and

WHEREAS, national events in recent years have heightened our awareness of the systemic barriers that women face in all spheres of life, including gender-based violence, sexual harassment in the workplace, and underrepresentation in decision-making positions across all sectors, which have persisted since the very first introduction of the ERA in 1923; and

WHEREAS, the proposed ERA represents nearly a century of women's tireless organizing and activism in pursuit of legal equality enshrined in the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, women's pursuit of legal recognition in the United States of America began in the nation's earliest days, when Abigail Adams advised John Adams to "remember the ladies," and

WHEREAS, the 2019 Annual Meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors was held in Hawaii, which was the first state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. During this conference, mayors from around the country ratified their support for the ERA; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment has been ratified by 38 of the 38 states necessary to become a constitutional amendment; and

WHEREAS, Congress has previously extended the ERA's ratification deadline, demonstrating that Congress has the authority to again modify the deadline to ensure the ERA's full ratification; and

WHEREAS, the ratification deadline originally set for the ERA by Congress is placed within the proposing clause of the ERA, and was not part of the amendment itself; and

WHEREAS, the plain language of the United States Constitution and the precedent of the ratification of the 14th Amendment render any rescission of a ratification of a Constitutional Amendment after ratification has properly taken place a legal nullity,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Joey Morrison, Mayor of the City of Bozeman, do hereby proclaim my support for the Equal Rights Amendment and join in the momentum of the Mayors for the ERA.

Joey Morrison

Mayor of Bozeman