



City of North Port

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-R-32

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT; URGING THE FEDERAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT AND TO ENACT IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION FOR THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT; URGING THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS FOR RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution does not currently guarantee women the same rights and protections as men; and

WHEREAS, in order to amend the Constitution, an amendment must be passed by the United States Congress and then ratified by three-fourths of the states; and

WHEREAS, women did not have the right to vote before 1919; subsequently, the 19th constitutional amendment was passed by the United States Congress in 1919 giving women the right to vote, and was ratified by three-fourths of the states in 1920; and

WHEREAS, each year beginning in 1923, a proposed constitutional amendment known as the "Equal Rights Amendment" was introduced as a bill in Congress and read, "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 United States Congress finally passed the Equal Rights Amendment in 1972 but then limited the time for ratification by the necessary 38 states to seven (7) years; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment was quickly ratified by 30 states by 1973 but then the ratification process slowed as opposition grew; and

WHEREAS, by 1979, which was the seven (7) year deadline, only 35 states had ratified the Equal Rights Amendment; and

WHEREAS, since 1979, two (2) more states have ratified the Equal Rights Amendment, but the 37 states still fall just one state short of the 38 states which must ratify the Equal Rights Amendment; and

WHEREAS, for 100 years since women received the right to vote, the Equal Rights Amendment has not been passed and women have not been guaranteed the equal rights and protections of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment would guarantee under the United States Constitution that all people are equal and that these rights may not be otherwise altered except upon proper passage of a constitutional amendment; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the United States Congress to amend the language to remove the deadline for ratification; S.J. Resolution 6 has been introduced to remove the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and to allow for its ratification once the 38th state votes to ratify; and

WHEREAS, only one more state is needed to achieve the 38-state threshold to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of North Port desires to support the Equal Rights Amendment and to urge federal legislative action as set forth hereinafter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1 – INCORPORATION OF RECITALS

1.01 The above recitals are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 2 – RESOLUTION

2.01 The City Commission for the City of North Port hereby supports passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and requests that the Federal Delegation strongly urge the United States Congress to make a deliberate and concerted effort to support S.J. Resolution 6 to remove the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and to allow for its ratification once the 38th state votes to ratify.

2.02 The City Commission for the City of North Port hereby supports the State of Florida becoming the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment and requests that the Local Delegation strongly urge the Governor of the State of Florida and the Florida State Legislature to take the necessary steps for the State of Florida to become the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

SECTION 3 – TRANSMITTAL

3.01 The City Commission for the City of North Port hereby instructs the City Clerk to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Federal Delegation, the Local Delegation, and the Governor of the State of Florida.

SECTION 4 – CONFLICTS

4.01 In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this resolution and any other resolution or portions thereof, the provisions of this resolution shall prevail to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 5 – SEVERABILITY

5.01 If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this resolution is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no way affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.

SECTION 6 – EFFECTIVE DATE

6.01 This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida.

PASSED and DULY ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida this 17th day of December 2019.

CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA

DEBBIE MCDOWELL
MAYOR

ATTEST

HEATHER TAYLOR, CMC
INTERIM CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS

AMBER L. SLAYTON
CITY ATTORNEY