

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R20-1099.01 Ashley Athey x2291

SJR20-020

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 20-020

101 **CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY**
102 **MONTH, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, DESIGNATING**
103 **MARCH AS COLORADO WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND**
104 **COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S**
105 **RIGHT TO VOTE.**

1 WHEREAS, American women of every race, class, and ethnic
2 background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength
3 of our nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways, especially in the
4 areas of political and social change; and

5 WHEREAS, The United States boasts a rich history of women
6 whose vast and courageous achievements speak to the sense of excellence
7 and potential shared by all Americans; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 WHEREAS, Our country would not be where it is without the
2 strength, bravery, insight, and persistence of the women who have come
3 before us; and

4 WHEREAS, American women have played and continue to play
5 a critical economic, cultural, political, and social role in every sphere of
6 the life of the nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor
7 force, working inside and outside of the home as everything from
8 educators to astronauts; and

9 WHEREAS, American women have been leaders, not only in
10 securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in
11 the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial
12 labor movement, the civil rights movement, and other movements that
13 create a more fair and just society for all; and

14 WHEREAS, The fight for women's suffrage, from the first
15 women's rights convention to enfranchisement, lasted 72 years, with
16 women from all walks of life, political views, and demographic
17 backgrounds asking for the right to voice their opinions at the polls; and

18 WHEREAS, It took male allies to support women in their
19 endeavor to vote, for it was sons, husbands, and fathers who ultimately
20 heeded their calls; and

21 WHEREAS, Most of the women who asked for the right to vote
22 never lived to see the enfranchisement of women; and

23 WHEREAS, Daughters, granddaughters, and great-granddaughters
24 of the women who fought so hard to vote have made their voices heard
25 at the polls for 100 years; and

26 WHEREAS, Women have not only played a critical economic,
27 cultural, and social role in our society, but women have also permanently
28 changed the face of American government and politics; and

29 WHEREAS, In 1893, Colorado was the first state to give women
30 the right to vote through popular vote, and a year later Colorado was the
31 first state to elect women to the state legislature; and

32 WHEREAS, On December 15, 1919, Colorado ratified the 19th

1 Amendment, and on August 26, 1920, after the remaining 35 states
2 ratified the amendment, the 19th Amendment became law; and

3 WHEREAS, The first women elected to the Colorado General
4 Assembly in 1894 were Clara Cressingham and Frances S. Klock, both
5 from Arapahoe County, and Carrie C. Holly from Pueblo County, and
6 Carrie C. Holly has the distinction of being the first woman in United
7 States history to initiate and get a bill passed; and

8 WHEREAS, More than 200 women have served in the General
9 Assembly since 1913, including Helen R. Robinson, who became the first
10 woman to serve in the Colorado Senate, and more than 30 of those
11 women have served in both the House of Representatives and the Senate;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Even though the 19th Amendment had passed, not all
14 women could vote yet. The struggle continued with the following
15 activities expanding the number of women voting:

16 ! The last treaty giving Native Americans the right to vote
17 was passed in 1924, and, at that point, all Native American
18 women citizens could vote;

19 ! Federal policy barred immigrants of Asian descent from
20 becoming United States citizens until 1952;

21 ! The "Voting Rights Act of 1965" (VRA), signed into law
22 by President Lyndon B. Johnson, aimed to overcome legal
23 barriers at the state and local levels that prevented African
24 American citizens from exercising their right to vote as
25 guaranteed under the 15th Amendment to the United States
26 constitution; and

27 ! The VRA was later expanded to ensure that all election
28 material was also made available in Spanish so that all
29 Hispanic American citizens had access; and

30 WHEREAS, Women are running for office in unprecedented
31 numbers, following in the footsteps of these great suffragists; and

32 WHEREAS, Today, women legislators play a vital role in
33 addressing difficult social and economic issues and helping our country

1 and the state of Colorado prepare for the future; and

2 WHEREAS, Colorado has a high percentage of women serving in
3 the state legislature at 47%, while the national percentage of women state
4 legislators is 29%; and

5 WHEREAS, Colorado currently has 47 women serving in the
6 General Assembly, which is the largest number of women in the
7 legislature in Colorado's history; and

8 WHEREAS, Such contributions and leadership in areas that help
9 women improve their lives and the lives of those around them led the
10 United Nations, in 1975, to designate March 8 as International Women's
11 Day and led the United States Congress, in 1987, to designate the month
12 of March as National Women's History Month; and

13 WHEREAS, August 26, 2020, marks the 100th anniversary of the
14 right of women to vote; now, therefore,

15 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-second General*
16 *Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives*
17 *concurring herein:*

18 That we, the members of the Seventy-second General Assembly,
19 hereby declare the month of March 2020 to be Colorado Women's History
20 Month in recognition of the struggles, accomplishments, and
21 contributions of American women throughout history and we
22 commemorate the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote.

23 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
24 to each member of Colorado's congressional delegation, Governor Jared
25 Polis, Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera, Secretary of State Jena
26 Griswold, State Treasurer Dave Young, Attorney General Phil Weiser,
27 the Colorado League of Women Voters, the Colorado Coalition Against
28 Global Genocide, and the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame.