

RESOLUTION NO. CC-2019-2

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA, SUPPORTING THE RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT AND URGING THE OKLAHOMA STATE LEGISLATURE TO RATIFY THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT DURING THE 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Stillwater supports equal rights for the citizens of Stillwater, and women constitute 49% of the citizenry of Stillwater; and

**WHEREAS**, women continue to confront a lack of political parity, workplace discrimination, health care inequities, and disparate rates of poverty, rape, and domestic violence assaults; and

**WHEREAS**, the only provision of the U.S. Constitution that explicitly guarantees equal protection without regard to sex is the right to vote contained in the Nineteenth Amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, claims of sex discrimination under the Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause are subject to a lesser standard of review, intermediate scrutiny, than claims of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, or national origin, which are subject to the highest level of review, strict scrutiny; and

**WHEREAS**, state laws regarding sex discrimination are not uniform, federal laws are not comprehensive, and legislative protections can be repealed or reduced; and

**WHEREAS**, equal rights activist and women suffrage leader Alice Paul first drafted the Equal Rights Amendment in 1923 and amended the language in 1943 to model it after the language of the Nineteenth Amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Equal Rights Amendment provides that equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex; and

**WHEREAS**, this language would help correct systemic sex discrimination; and

**WHEREAS**, the Equal Rights Amendment was passed by an almost unanimous vote of Congress in 1972 but ratified by only 35 of the required 38 states necessary to add it to the U.S. Constitution at the time the continued deadline expired in 1982; and

**WHEREAS**, arguably Congress can alter the original time limits by a majority vote; and

**WHEREAS**, Nevada on March 22, 2017, and Illinois on May 30, 2018, became the 36<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> states, respectively, to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STILLWATER, THAT:**

1. City of Stillwater supports the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; and
2. City of Stillwater urges the Oklahoma State Legislature to ratify Congress's March 22, 1972, Equal Rights Amendment during the 2019 legislative session.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

CITY OF STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA  
a Municipal Corporation

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(SEAL)  
ATTEST:

William H. Joyce, Mayor

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ELIZABETH CHRZ, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_ 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN E. DORMAN, CITY ATTORNEY