



TOWN OF ONANCOCK

15 North Street
Onancock, VA 23417

Town of Onancock

Resolution in Support of Ratification by Virginia of the Equal Rights Amendment To the United States Constitution

WHEREAS, equality under the law is a fundamental value of Americans and the people of the Town of Onancock; and

WHEREAS, legislation and court decisions have increased women's access to education, employment, and public service; and

WHEREAS, that same legislation can be repealed and the Supreme Court may strike legislation or retreat from its own precedent, thereby eliminating or abridging legal rights currently enjoyed by women, girls, and their families; and

WHEREAS, Americans value the continued participation of women in education, the military, public service, and other spheres of our society; and

WHEREAS, inclusion of the Equal Rights Amendment in the Constitution would require courts to apply the same strict level of scrutiny it applies to test the constitutionality of government action based on race, religion, or national origin; and

WHEREAS, an overwhelming majority of Americans reported in a 2015 poll that they support an amendment to the United States Constitution to guarantee equal rights for both men and women; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment was passed in 1972 by Congress, which imposed a seven-year ratification deadline on states, later extended to ten years; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution does not expressly authorize Congress to impose ratification deadlines on the states, and, moreover, if Congress does have such power, then it also has the power to extend or eliminate its deadlines; and

WHEREAS, the American Bar Association reaffirmed its support for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in 2016; and

WHEREAS, well after the 1982 deadline set by Congress, Nevada in 2017 and Illinois in 2018 ratified the Equal Rights Amendment, bringing the total number of states that have ratified the amendment to 37, just one shy of the 38 needed to satisfy the

Constitutional requirement that an amendment be ratified by three-fourths of the states to become valid; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment states:

Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Town of Onancock, support the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we, the Town of Onancock, urge the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, as proposed by Congress on March 22, 1972, during the 2019 legislative session.

Signed this 28 day of JANUARY, 2019.



Fletcher D. Fosque
Mayor
Town of Onancock