

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 57th Legislature (2020)

3 SENATE  
4 RESOLUTION 13

By: David, Floyd and Treat

5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution commemorating the 100th anniversary of  
8 Oklahoma's ratification of the 19th Amendment to the  
9 U.S. Constitution granting women the right to vote.

10  
11 WHEREAS, the effort to secure women's suffrage in Oklahoma began  
12 prior to statehood when, in 1890, the Woman's Christian Temperance  
13 Union lobbied territorial lawmakers for the right to vote in school  
14 elections. In 1897 and again in 1899, the Oklahoma Territory Equal  
15 Suffrage Association lobbied the territorial Legislature to pass  
16 voting-rights bills, though neither attempt was successful; and

17 WHEREAS, despite those defeats, the effort to gain voting rights  
18 continued. In 1904, women from Oklahoma and Indian territories  
19 formed the Twin Territorial Woman Suffrage Association. In 1906,  
20 the Oklahoma Woman Suffrage Association was formed; and

21 WHEREAS, suffragists sought voting rights at the Oklahoma  
22 Constitutional Convention of 1906, but opponents, led by president  
23 of the convention, William H. Murray, blocked women's suffrage  
24 except in school elections; and

1           WHEREAS, even though women were denied the right to vote,  
2 Oklahomans elected child advocate and social reformer Kate Barnard  
3 to be the state's first Commissioner of Charities and Corrections.  
4 Barnard won the race by a greater plurality than any other candidate  
5 in the 1907 general election, becoming the first woman to hold  
6 statewide office in Oklahoma; and

7           WHEREAS, in March 1917, the state Legislature approved Senate  
8 Concurrent Resolution No. 5 on universal women's suffrage. On  
9 November 5, 1918, Oklahoma voters approved the amendment to the  
10 state's constitution making Oklahoma the twenty-first state to give  
11 women the right to vote, almost two years before suffrage was  
12 ratified at the national level; and

13           WHEREAS, on June 4, 1919, Congress approved the 19th Amendment  
14 which stated that "The right of citizens of the United States to  
15 vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any  
16 state on account of sex." At least 36 states were needed to support  
17 the amendment; and

18           WHEREAS, on February 28, 1920, Oklahoma became the 33rd state to  
19 approve the 19th Amendment. By August of that year, 36 states  
20 including Oklahoma had ratified the amendment ensuring the right to  
21 vote could not be denied based on sex; and

22           WHEREAS, since the ratification of the 19th Amendment, Oklahoma  
23 women have been elected to the top leadership posts in the state,  
24 serving as Governor, Lieutenant Governor, statewide offices,

1 congressional and legislative seats and holding leadership positions  
2 in the State Legislature.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION  
4 OF THE 57TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

5 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commemorates the 100th  
6 anniversary of Oklahoma's ratification of the 19th Amendment on  
7 February 28, 2020.

8 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate acknowledges and applauds the  
9 efforts of multiple individuals and organizations throughout the  
10 state's history to secure suffrage for women, guaranteeing future  
11 generations the ability to participate fully in the political  
12 process as voters, leaders and officeholders.

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