

**A NON-BINDING RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND SUPPORT THE
100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE 19TH
AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION GRANTING
WOMEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE**

WHEREAS, the right to vote by all adults in the United States is a necessary component to our democratic process; and

WHEREAS, at the founding of the Republic, not all citizens were afforded the right to vote, as the United States Constitution left suffrage undefined and for the states to determine; and

WHEREAS, the Seneca Falls Convention in New York in 1848 laid the groundwork for women's suffrage, most notably through the efforts of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, and organized action from diverse groups kept the movement for suffrage alive through decades of opposition; and

WHEREAS, Senator Aaron Sargent of California introduced legislation that would become the 19th Amendment to Congress in 1878; and

WHEREAS, after initial introduction in 1878 and 40 years of failed attempts at passage, on May 21, 1919 the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution passed the House of Representatives, and on June 4, 1919 it passed the Senate; and

WHEREAS, 36 state legislatures were needed to ratify the amendment in order to formally amend the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, The Indiana General Assembly voted to ratify on January 16, 1920, making it the 26th state to do so; and

WHEREAS, the charge for the formal amendment was championed by many leaders nationwide, including, but not limited to Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt, Alice Paul, Lucy Burns, and Ida B. Wells-Barnett, and in Indiana, ratification efforts were led by women such as Amanda Way, Zerelda Wallace, May Wright Sewall, Helen Gouger, Dr. Ameila Keller, Grace Julian Clarke, and Madam C.J. Walker; and locally by Mary Frame Thomas, Beulah Ninde, Carrie Banning, Katherine Hamilton, Carolyn Fairbank, Addie Guldlin, Martha Ridenour, Minnette Baum, Elizabeth Sihler, and Alice McCulloch.; and

WHEREAS, with Tennessee's ratification on August 18, 1920, and the amendment's official adoption on August 26, 1920, the United States Constitution was amended to include the 19th Amendment, ensuring that the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex; and

WHEREAS, although it did not eliminate every legal obstacle preventing the full enfranchisement of all women, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution granting women the right to vote was a monumental change in the makeup of the American electorate; and

WHEREAS, The 19th Amendment gave women the opportunity to play an official role in American government, forever changing the makeup of the electorate, allowing for a more diverse set of issues to be discussed, and creating roles for the previously disenfranchised; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WAYNE, INDIANA:

SECTION 1. We honor the kickoff of the 100th anniversary year of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Geoff Paddock

John Crawford

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

Joseph G. Bonahoom, Attorney for Common Council