



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 Albemarle County; and the United States Constitution does not explicitly guarantee equal rights and equal protection for the sexes; and the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution does not provide the strict scrutiny for sex-based classifications that is provided for classifications based on race, religion, and national origin; and

WHEREAS, state laws are not uniform, federal laws are not comprehensive and laws can be repealed or reduced; and the Supreme Court can strike legislation or retreat from its own precedent; and the people of the United States continue to experience the negative effects of lack of political parity between men and women, workplace discrimination, health care inequities, disparate rates of poverty, rape and domestic violence assaults; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) provides that “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex;” and the Amendment would help ensure women and men have the same constitutional protections; and

WHEREAS, the ERA was passed by Congress in 1972 and has been ratified by 37 states, requiring just one more state to ratify to satisfy the constitutional requirement for the amendment to become valid; and the time limit for the ERA appears only in the preamble and Congress presently is considering a bill that removes the time limit for ratification of the ERA; and

WHEREAS, for 48 years, the Virginia State Constitution has sought to protect Virginians from discrimination by the Commonwealth on the basis of sex;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, support the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, urge the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia to ratify the ERA to the U.S. Constitution, as proposed by Congress on March 22, 1972, during the 2020 legislative session.

Signed this 21st day of August 2019.

Ned Gallaway, Chair
Albemarle Board of County Supervisors