



## Proclamation to Commemorate Women's Equality Day 2023

**WHEREAS** on August 26, 1920, millions of women won voting rights, the greatest single expansion of democracy in U.S. history, yet 103 years later, women still have not achieved full equality and face ongoing and increasing threats of discrimination, violence and loss of bodily autonomy; and

**WHEREAS** although on January 27, 2020, Virginia became the final of the requisite 38 states to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, fulfilling the requirements of the U.S. Constitution, yet the ERA has not been published, allowing gender-based discrimination to continue without recourse under the foundational document undergirding all our laws; and

**WHEREAS** federal laws ensuring the equal rights and safety of women can be weakened or removed, with the U.S. Supreme Court recently demonstrating retreat from its own precedent to take away previous constitutional rights, imperiling women country wide and impeding their ability to make decisions about their own bodies, families, and futures; and

**WHEREAS** females make up nearly 52 percent of Albemarle County's population and the Albemarle County government has an appropriate and legitimate role in securing and defending gender equality in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that we, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim August 26, 2023, as Women's Equality Day in Albemarle County, in celebration and remembrance of all who worked to gain voting rights for women and those who have continued the fight for gender equity.

Signed this 16th day of August 2023.

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Donna Price, Chair  
Albemarle Board of County Supervisors