



**WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PROCLAMATION  
Commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
19<sup>th</sup> Amendment and Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of the League of Women Voters**

**WHEREAS**, the movement to enfranchise women began in July 1848, at a convention in Seneca Falls, New York; and

**WHEREAS**, courageous women and men, referred to as suffragists, sacrificed family, their personal life, and their financial resources for over seventy years to gain equal rights for women, especially the right to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, the women's suffrage movement led to the passage by Congress of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in 1919 and was ratified by the states by the summer of 1920; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Women's Suffrage Association dissolved in 1920 to create the League of Women Voters of the United States for the purpose of educating voters and registering women to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, the League of Women Voters of North Carolina was launched on October 7, 1920 on the steps of the Guilford County Courthouse by Gertrude Weil, a North Carolina suffrage leader; and

**WHEREAS**, the League of Women Voters of Wake County first met on September 27, 1920, and approximately 120,000 North Carolina women registered to vote for the November 1920 election; and

**WHEREAS**, women today constitute a majority vote in North Carolina and in the United States, are running for office in greater numbers, and are more active in the election process than ever before in history;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Wake County Board of Commissioners recognizes the historic impact of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment on women's voting rights and on the civic life of women in our community, in North Carolina, and in the nation,

**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Wake County Board of Commissioners recognizes the League of Women Voters of Wake County and the League of Women Voters of North Carolina for their work to promote citizen engagement since their founding in 1920.

**ADOPTED**, this the 17th day of February 2020.

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Gregory D. Ford, Chairman  
Wake County Board of Commissioners