

SENATE RESOLUTION

8681

By Senators Darneille, Keiser, Becker, Cleveland, Short, Warnick, Rivers, Brown, Walsh, Das, Saldaña, Randall, Lovelett, Wilson, C., Kuderer, Dhingra, Wellman, Rolfes, Wilson, L., Wagoner, Muzzall, and Conway

1 WHEREAS, This year, 2020, is the 100th anniversary of the 1920
2 ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution
3 stating that "The right of citizens of the United States to vote
4 shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State
5 on account of sex"; and

6 WHEREAS, Today marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the
7 National League of Women Voters, and the inception of the League of
8 Women Voters of Washington; and

9 WHEREAS, The National Council of Women Voters, a nonpartisan
10 educational organization headquartered in Tacoma, Washington, was the
11 first national organization of voting women, led by Emma Smith DeVoe,
12 who emphasized the importance of voting on issues rather than by
13 party; and

14 WHEREAS, Emma Smith DeVoe led the charge to enfranchise women in
15 the state of Washington, and helped transform the face of suffragist
16 politics in the United States; and

17 WHEREAS, The State of Washington granted the right to vote to
18 women a full decade earlier in 1910, inspiring a nationwide campaign
19 that led to the enfranchisement of women throughout the country; and

20 WHEREAS, 100 years ago today, on February 14, 1920, the National
21 Council of Women Voters merged with the National American Woman
22 Suffrage Association, headed by president Carrie Chapman Catt, Susan

1 B. Anthony's successor, forming one national suffragist
2 organization, the League of Women Voters; and

3 WHEREAS, For 100 years, the Seattle and Tacoma chapters of
4 the League have been at the forefront of civic engagement in
5 Washington State, educating millions of our residents in order
6 for them to become informed participants in government; and

7 WHEREAS, For 100 years, the League has lived its conviction
8 that "the vote is the emblem of equality" through its campaigns,
9 focusing on policies to increase access to voting, combating
10 voter discrimination, opposing voter photo identification laws,
11 and promoting provoter reforms; and

12 WHEREAS, The nonpartisan Voters Pamphlet that precedes each
13 election in Washington is an example of the League's ongoing
14 educational effort; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1993, the League was a key player in passing the
16 National Voter Registration Act, also known as the Motor Voter
17 Act, making registration fast and easy; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2018 alone, 4.2 million voters' rights were
19 protected through the League's education, advocacy, and
20 litigation efforts to create an informed and educated
21 electorate; and

22 WHEREAS, From the beginning, equal rights and social reform
23 have been the bedrock for the League's work addressing child
24 welfare, maternal and child health programs, child labor
25 protections and discriminatory laws against women; and

26 WHEREAS, Within the societal unrest of the 1960s, the League
27 focused its efforts on civil rights issues of equal access to
28 education, housing and employment; and

29 WHEREAS, With the support of the League in Washington state,
30 the Housing Trust Fund, amendments to welfare reform, and
31 increased appropriations for children's services led to the
32 establishment of a governor's commission for children in the
33 1980s; and

34 WHEREAS, In the 1990s, the League took positions in support
35 of LGBTQ rights, supported protections from discrimination based
36 on sexual orientation in employment and lobbied for
37 antiharassment policies and training guidelines in the "save
38 schools bill"; and

1 WHEREAS, The League has historically been concerned with
2 conservation of natural resources, and protection of public
3 lands, and is currently focused on initiatives, task forces, and
4 studies that concentrate on climate change, resource management,
5 and environmental planning and incentives; and

6 WHEREAS, The League continue to study, adopt positions,
7 advocate, and serve the community, and register educated voters
8 to this day; and

9 WHEREAS, From voters' rights, to child labor laws, to
10 climate change, to government restructuring; the League of Women
11 Voters is not only a leader in addressing these issues, but a
12 reflection of the needs of our community and a protector of our
13 democratic processes;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That on this day, February
15 14, 2020, the League of Women Voters of the United States, as
16 the organization came to be called, is celebrating 100 years of
17 empowering voters through education, nonpartisanship, inclusion,
18 collaboration, and grassroots democracy; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we do now commend and honor the
20 League of Women Voters for continuously strengthening democracy
21 through shaping public policy on equal rights and social
22 reforms; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The League that began as a "mighty
24 political experiment" designed to help millions of women to
25 become responsible voters is truly a hallmark of our democracy.

26 I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate,
27 do hereby certify that this is a true and
28 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8681,
29 adopted by the Senate
30 February 14, 2020

31 BRAD HENDRICKSON
32 Secretary of the Senate