

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 59

Senators Brinks, Bayer, Santana, Polehanki, McMorrow, Bullock, Alexander, Victory, Runestad, Bizon, MacDonald, McBroom, Bumstead, Lucido, Schmidt, Zorn, Geiss, Wojno, Ananich, McCann, Irwin, Moss, Outman, Theis, Johnson, Hertel, Hollier, MacGregor, Barrett, Shirkey, Horn, Daley and VanderWall, Chang, LaSata, Lauwers, Nesbitt and Stamas offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to commemorate June 10, 2019, as the 100th
2 anniversary of Michigan's ratification of the 19th Amendment.

3 Whereas, Michigan was the one of the first three states to
4 ratify the 19th Amendment, to provide suffrage to women; and

5 Whereas, The introduction, passage, and ultimate ratification
6 of the 19th Amendment were the culmination of decades of work and
7 struggle by advocates; and

1 Whereas, This tireless advocacy began in Michigan in 1846 when
2 a woman named Ernestine Rose spoke to the Michigan legislature
3 about the need for women's suffrage; and

4 Whereas, Organized efforts to advocate for a vote on women's
5 suffrage began with a petition drive in 1855; and

6 Whereas, By 1866, the Michigan legislature considered its
7 first bill to extend suffrage to women, but the measure was
8 defeated by a single vote; and

9 Whereas, Over the next fifty years, proposals to grant women
10 the right to vote were considered numerous times by the legislature
11 and Michigan voters, but each time the measures came up short; and

12 Whereas, Leading these campaigns were organizations, including
13 the Michigan State Suffrage Association and the Michigan Equal
14 Suffrage Association, who held rallies and worked to educate
15 others; and

16 Whereas, Women from across Michigan with diverse backgrounds
17 and political views persisted in their quest, persevering in the
18 face of resistance; and

19 Whereas, These Michigan women played an instrumental role in
20 achieving women's suffrage both in Michigan and across the country;
21 and

22 Whereas, It took male allies to support women in their
23 endeavor to vote, for it was sons, husbands, and fathers who
24 ultimately heard the calls of women and took this historic vote on
25 June 10, 1919; and

26 Whereas, In August of the following year, the 19th Amendment
27 was ratified by three-fourths of the states and officially became
28 part of the Constitution of the United States; and

29 Whereas, We thank the decades-long effort by women's rights

1 activists, the daughters, granddaughters, and great-granddaughters
2 of the women who fought so hard to vote, and made their voices
3 heard at the polls for nearly 100 years; and

4 Whereas, Most of the women who began asking for the right to
5 vote never lived to see the enfranchisement of women; and

6 Whereas, Women are now running for elected office in
7 unprecedented numbers, following in the footsteps of these great
8 suffragists; and

9 Whereas, We honor those who have championed the movement to
10 achieve economic, social, and political equality for women in the
11 state of Michigan; now, therefore be it

12 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
13 body commemorate June 10, 2019, as the 100th anniversary of
14 Michigan's ratification of the 19th Amendment; and be it further

15 Resolved, That the Senate reaffirms Michigan's commitment to
16 empowering and uplifting the voices of women across our great
17 state.