

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.119

Reps. Greig, Witwer, Garza, Love, Anthony, Wittenberg, Kuppa, Clemente, Hood, Brixie, Stone, Manoogian, Pagan, Hoadley, Tyrone Carter, Tate, Haadsma, Hope, Bolden, Kennedy, Koleszar, Crawford, Allor, Rendon, Pohutsky, Warren, Cherry, Lasinski, Camilleri, Hertel, Bollin, Calley, Chirkun, Elder, Ellison, Garrett, Gay-Dagnogo, Cynthia Johnson, Jones, Liberati, Rabhi, Sabo, Sowerby and Yaroch offered the following resolution:

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

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

6       Whereas, The introduction, passage, and ultimate ratification  
7 of the 19th Amendment were the culmination of decades of work and



1 struggle by advocates for the rights of women across Michigan and  
2 the United States; and

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

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

8       Whereas, In 1866, the Michigan Legislature considered its  
9 first bill to extend suffrage to women, but the measure was  
10 defeated by a single vote; and

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

14       Whereas, Leading these campaigns were organized groups such as  
15 the Michigan State Suffrage Association and the Michigan Equal  
16 Suffrage Association, who held rallies and worked to educate others  
17 about the importance of women's suffrage; and

18       Whereas, Women from across the state of Michigan with diverse  
19 backgrounds and political views persisted in their quest for  
20 women's suffrage, persevering in the face of resistance; and

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

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

28       Whereas, In August of the following year, the 19th Amendment  
29 was ratified by three-fourths of the states and officially became

1 part of the Constitution of the United States; and

2       Whereas, Thanks to the decades-long effort by women's rights  
3 activists, the daughters, granddaughters, and great-granddaughters  
4 of the women who fought so hard to vote have been making their  
5 voices heard at the polls for nearly 100 years; and

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

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

11       Whereas, We recognize the centennial of women's suffrage and  
12 honor those who have championed the movement to achieve economic,  
13 social, and political equality for women in the state of Michigan;  
14 now, therefore, be it

15       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
16 this legislative body commemorate June 10, 2019, as the 100th  
17 anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment by the state  
18 of Michigan; and be it further

19       Resolved, That we reaffirm Michigan's commitment to empowering  
20 and uplifting the voices of women across our great state.