

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 and Hertel 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
8 struggle by advocates for the rights of women across Michigan and
9 the United States; and



1 Whereas, This tireless advocacy began in Michigan in 1846,
2 when 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, In 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 organized groups such as
13 the Michigan State Suffrage Association and the Michigan Equal
14 Suffrage Association, who held rallies and worked to educate others
15 about the importance of women's suffrage; and

16 Whereas, Women from across the state of Michigan with diverse
17 backgrounds and political views persisted in their quest for
18 women's suffrage, persevering in the 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, Thanks to 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 have been making their
3 voices 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 recognize the centennial of women's suffrage and
10 honor those who have championed the movement to achieve economic,
11 social, and political equality for women in the state of Michigan;
12 now, therefore, be it

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

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