

PROCLAMATION
Honoring and Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the
19th Amendment to the United States Constitution

WHEREAS, the fight for women's suffrage, from the first women's rights convention in 1848 to enfranchisement, lasted more than 72 years, with women from all walks of life, political views, and demographic backgrounds demanding the right to participate in the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, on November 7, 1893, Colorado led the way as the first state to enact equal suffrage through popular vote and in 1894, three women, Clara Cressingham, Carrie Holly and Frances Klock were elected into the Colorado State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, suffragists pushed for a single constitutional amendment, granting female suffrage on the federal level, dubbed the Susan B. Anthony Amendment; and

WHEREAS, it took male allies to support women in their endeavor to vote, and the House of Representatives took a historic vote on May 21, 1919 followed by the Senate on June 4, 1919, and three-fourths of the states needed to ratify the 19th Amendment; and

WHEREAS, Colorado was the 22nd state to ratify the 19th Amendment on December 15, 1919 and Tennessee was the 36th (and final) state to ratify the 19th Amendment, making it the law of the land on August 26, 1920 whereby millions of women were enfranchised; and

WHEREAS, the introduction, passage and ultimate ratification of the 19th Amendment were the culmination of decades of work and struggle by advocates for the rights of women across the United States; and

WHEREAS, the ratification of the 19th Amendment ensured women could more fully participate in the United States' democracy and fundamentally changed the role of women in the civic life of the Nation; and

WHEREAS, the daughters, granddaughters, and great-granddaughters of the women who fought for the right vote have been making their voices heard at the polls for nearly 100 years; and

WHEREAS, women are running for office in unprecedented numbers, with Coloradans still leading the way with 42 percent of the State Legislature seats held by women - well above the national average of 24 percent, and of La Plata County's 10 elected officials, 6 are women; and

WHEREAS, the centennial anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment represents a historical milestone to be lauded and celebrated; and

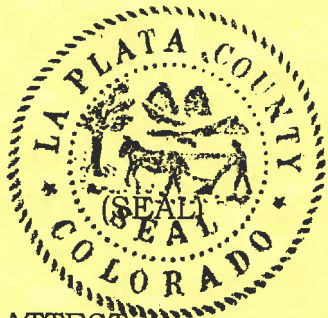
WHEREAS, the 19th Amendment did not guarantee suffrage for all women: Native Americans did not gain the right to vote until 1924 through the Indian Citizenship Act, and Asian Pacific Islander Americans gained the right to vote in 1952, through the McCarran-Waiter Act, and many Americans of color suffered official voter suppression until passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to protect, celebrate and advocate for one of our most cherished democratic liberties: our treasured right to vote.

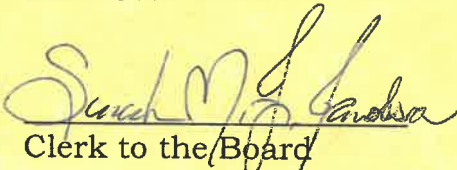
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT by the La Plata County Board of County Commissioners do hereby commemorate the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment, providing for women's suffrage, to the Constitution of the United States; and encourage our citizens to rally together for greater empowerment and equality for all and:

1. Honor the role of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in further promoting the core values of the democracy as promised by the Constitution of the United States.
2. Reaffirm the opportunity for people in the United States to learn about and commemorate the efforts of the women's suffrage movement and appreciate the contributions of women in Colorado history.
3. Reaffirm the desire of La Plata County and all citizens to continue strengthening democratic participation and to inspire future generations to cherish and preserve the historic precedent established under the 19th Amendment and underscore the value of each of citizen's voice with the right to vote.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED in Durango, La Plata County, Colorado, this 25th day of August, 2020.

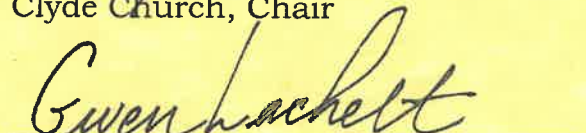


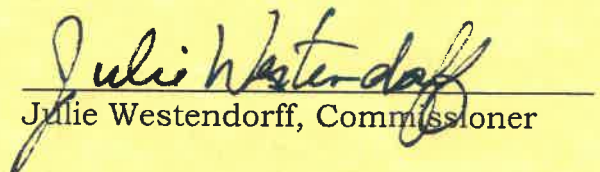
ATTEST:


Clerk to the Board

LA PLATA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LA PLATA COUNTY, COLORADO


Clyde Church, Chair


Gwen Lachelt, Vice Chair


Julie Westendorff, Commissioner