State of Maine

Proclamation

WHEREAS, from the country's – and the State of Maine's – founding, women were not recognized as citizens and were unable to vote; and

WHEREAS, on July 19th and 20th, 1848, the first women's rights convention, including a call for women's suffrage, was held in Seneca Falls, New York; and

WHEREAS, on January 29th, 1873, the first Maine State Women's Suffrage Association meeting was held; and

WHEREAS, on September 23rd and 24th, 1885, the first statewide suffrage convention in Maine was held at the M.E. Church on Chestnut Street in Portland; and

WHEREAS, from 1886 to 1915, several bills in support of suffrage were submitted to the all-male state legislature, and all were defeated; and

WHEREAS, on September 10th, 1917, a statewide referendum on the suffrage issue in Maine was defeated by a two-to-one margin of (male) voters; and

WHEREAS, in June 1919, the United States Congress passed and submitted to the states for ratification the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution which prohibited state and federal governments from denying the right to vote to U.S. citizens on the basis of sex; and

WHEREAS, on November 6th, 1919, during an emergency legislative session, Maine became the 19th state to ratify the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution; and
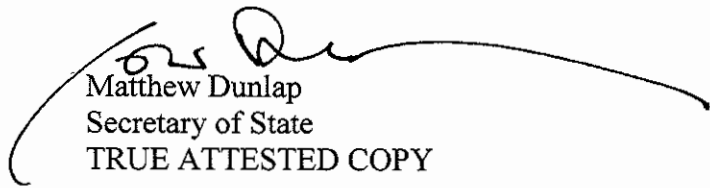
WHEREAS, on August 18th, 1920, the proposed 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution achieved ratification by the three-fourths of states necessary for women's suffrage to become law;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the great State of Maine, do hereby commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Maine's ratification of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote and call upon the people of Maine to observe this anniversary with the appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this nineteenth day of March Two Thousand Nineteen

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State
TRUE ATTESTED COPY