



City of Harrisonburg

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Harrisonburg, VA 22801
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Deanna Reed, Mayor
Sal Romero, Vice-Mayor
Richard Baugh, Council Member
Christopher B. Jones, Council Member
George Hirschmann, Council Member

Resolution in support of Ratification by Virginia of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution does not explicitly guarantee equal rights and equal protection for the sexes; and

WHEREAS, the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution and state constitutional statements of equality generally do not provide the strict scrutiny for sex-based classifications that is provided for classifications based on race, religion, and national origin; and

WHEREAS, state laws are not uniform and federal laws are not comprehensive, and these laws can be repealed or reduced; and

WHEREAS, the people of the United States continue to experience the negative effects of lack of political parity between men and women, workplace discrimination, health care inequities, disparate rates of poverty, rape and domestic violence assaults; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) provides that "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex;" and

WHEREAS, the Amendment would help ensure women and men have the same constitutional protections; and

WHEREAS, the ERA was passed by Congress in 1972, and has been ratified by 37 states, the most recent being Nevada in 2017 and Illinois in 2018; and

WHEREAS, the time limit for the ERA appears only in the preamble; and

WHEREAS, Congress presently is considering a bill that removes the time limit for ratification of the ERA; and

WHEREAS, for 47 years, the Virginia State Constitution has sought to protect Virginians from discrimination by the Commonwealth on the basis of sex; and

WHEREAS, the City of Harrisonburg enforces principles of fair treatment of its employment applicants and employees without discrimination on the basis of sex and prohibits sexual harassment in the workplace.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Harrisonburg City Council supports the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Harrisonburg City Council urges the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia to ratify the ERA to the U.S. Constitution, as proposed by Congress on March 22, 1972, during the 2019 legislative session.

Adopted this 8th day of January, 2019.

BY: _____
Deanna R. Reed, Mayor

Attest: _____
Pamela Ulmer, City Clerk