

## **Federation Resolution on**

### **Ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States**

December 20, 2018

WHEREAS, in 1972 the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, an article known as the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA); and

WHEREAS, the proposed ERA states, “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex”; and

WHEREAS, Congressionally-proposed amendments become valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths (thirty-eight) of the states; and

WHEREAS, thirty-seven states have subsequently ratified the ERA, the latest being Nevada and Illinois in 2018; and

WHEREAS, the seven year deadline for ratification, once extended three years, included in the 1972 Congressional action, is of uncertain validity and may be rescinded by Congress or challenged in court; and

WHEREAS, across party lines and demographic groups, voters very strongly support ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment in the 2019 General Assembly, according to polling by the Judy Ford Wason Center for Public Policy, Newport News University<sup>1</sup>;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations urges the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia to ratify and affirm the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States as proposed by the United States Congress on March 22, 1972, and as ratified to date by 37 other state legislatures.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://wasoncenter.cnu.edu/wason-centers-state-of-the-commonwealth-survey-finds-virginia-voters-are-happy/>