



State of Wisconsin
2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3235/1
CMH:jlw

2019 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 37

1 **Relating to:** celebrating June 10, 2019, as the 100th Anniversary of ratifying the
2 19th Amendment.

3 Whereas, June 10, 2019, marks the 100th anniversary of Wisconsin leading the
4 nation as the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment, allowing women the right to
5 vote; and

6 Whereas, Wisconsin women fought for the right to vote for more than a century
7 before it was granted and persevered in the face of resistance; and

8 Whereas, the national constitutional amendment for women's suffrage passed
9 overwhelmingly in the Wisconsin Assembly 54 to 2 and in the Wisconsin Senate 25
10 to 1; and

11 Whereas, to be the first state, Wisconsin raced with Illinois and Michigan,
12 appointing former State Senator David James as special messenger to transfer the
13 certification to Washington, D.C., with James hand-delivering the certification
14 moments before the Illinois messenger arrived; and

1 Whereas, Wisconsin became the first state to file the certification, other states
2 soon followed; and

3 Whereas, the necessary 36 states soon ratified the 19th Amendment; half of the
4 U.S. population was enfranchised on August 26, 1920; and

5 Whereas, the fight for women's suffrage, from the first women's rights
6 convention to enfranchisement, lasted 72 years, with women from all walks of life,
7 political views, and demographic backgrounds asking for the right to voice their
8 opinions at the polls; and

9 Whereas, Wisconsin women by the thousands advocated for the right to vote on
10 the streets, in newspapers, and in the state and federal capitols; and

11 Whereas, Wisconsin-born Carrie Chapman Catt led the national movement,
12 meeting with President Woodrow Wilson to secure his support for suffrage in light
13 of women's contributions during World War I; and

14 Whereas, Wisconsin women, like former First Lady Belle Case LaFollette and
15 Reverend Olympia Brown, garnered national attention for their suffrage efforts; and

16 Whereas, Ada James took women's right to vote to the streets and re-energized
17 suffrage efforts in 1912; and

18 Whereas, Theodora Winton Youmans helped heal the state's suffragists after
19 the failure of the 1912 referendum and continued the movement to educate
20 Wisconsin residents on the benefits of women voters; and

21 Whereas, women had been organized under the statewide structure of the
22 Wisconsin Woman's Suffrage Association since 1869; and

23 Whereas, it took male allies to support women in their endeavor to vote, for it
24 was sons, husbands, and fathers who ultimately heard the calls of women and took
25 this historic vote on June 10, 1919; and

