



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the 19th Amendment of the United States Constitution overturned unjust state regulations that prohibited women the same right to vote as that granted to men; and

WHEREAS, in 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott organized the Seneca Falls Convention from which the demand for women's right to vote became a centerpiece for the women's rights movement; and

WHEREAS, in the days, years, and decades that followed, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony, and many other advocates raised public awareness and lobbied state and federal officials to amend the United States Constitution to grant women the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the courageous and heroic efforts of suffragists for women's rights in their steadfast pursuit for a more just and equal society, on August 18, 1920 the United States Constitution was amended to overturn an injustice by the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which states:

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation;” and

WHEREAS, despite the passage of the 19th Amendment, other laws and practices remained in effect until the 1960s that effectively prevented women from voting who were Native American, Asian Pacific Islander, Black, Hispanic, and Latina; and

WHEREAS, practices remain in effect to this day that have the effect of limiting people's ability to vote in some communities across our nation.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor of the City of Monroe, Washington, do hereby recognize August 18, 2020, as the

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT TO THE US CONSTITUTION

AND, I call upon each of us to not only remember the struggles that Americans have endured and fought to overcome throughout our country's history, but further to recognize the struggles that remain and, as suffragists have done before us, to take active steps to reform or repeal systems and laws that perpetuate inequity and to persistently advocate for and protect equality for all people.

Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor