



# A PROCLAMATION

BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SMYRNA

## In Recognition of The First Introduction of the Equal Rights Amendment

- Whereas:** the "Equality of Rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex" - section 1 of the currently unpublished 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the US Constitution; and
- Whereas:** on December 10, 1923, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), written by Alice Paul and Crystal Eastman was introduced to Congress by Senator Curtis of Kansas three years after the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment that gave women the right to vote; and
- Whereas:** The National Woman's Party sponsored the bill and continued grassroots activism across the country to advocate that it would one day become law; and
- Whereas:** Representative Martha Griffiths reintroduced the bill to Congress in 1971, finally being approved by the US House of Representatives on October 12, 1971, and by the US Senate on March 22, 1972 sending the ERA to the state legislatures for ratification; and
- Whereas:** by 1977, 35 of the 38 necessary States had ratified the amendment. Nevada was the 36<sup>th</sup> State to ratify in 2017. Illinois followed in 2018 and finally Virginia in 2020 bringing the total ratification to 38 States, the number provided by Article V of the US Constitution; and
- Whereas:** there are several organizations like National Organization for Women and others that continue the fight for ratification in the remaining 12 States, Georgia among them; and
- Whereas:** it has been over 50 years since the ERA left Congress on the road to ratification. It has been 100 years since Alice Paul and the National Woman's Party asserted that women should be equal with men; and
- Whereas:** Under the leadership of President Triana Arnold James, the Georgia National Organization for Women and its members will continue the effort to enshrine equality for women in our Constitution; and
- Therefore:** I, Derek Norton, Mayor of the City of Smyrna, Georgia do hereby acknowledge and commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> Day of December as the Annual Day of Recognition of the Introduction of the Equal Rights Amendment.



*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Smyrna to be affixed upon this 4th day of December in the year of Our Lord 2023.*

*Derek Norton*

Mayor

Derek Norton