

STATE OF KANSAS



PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, the right to vote is fundamental to the strength of American democracy, and the expansion of the franchise has made government more reflective of and responsive to the American people; increased political participation leads to greater accountability and improved outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granting women the right to vote in national elections was a milestone in women's political and economic empowerment and the culmination of a decades-long effort by the women's suffrage movement;

WHEREAS, Kansas was the first state to hold a referendum on women's suffrage in 1867, and Kansas women were leaders in the suffrage movement; in 1912, eight years before the 19th Amendment was ratified, Kansas became the first state in the Midwest to grant women the right to vote;

WHEREAS, in support of women's suffrage nationwide, Kansas ratified the 19th Amendment on June 16, 1919, becoming one of the first six states to do so; the 19th Amendment was later ratified on August 18, 1920 and certified as an amendment to the U.S. Constitution on August 26th, 1920, and

WHEREAS, despite the guarantees enshrined in the 19th Amendment, women of color have continued to face systemic barriers to the ballot box; and policies that make it more difficult for people to vote disproportionately impact low-income communities and people of color; and

WHEREAS, despite making progress towards equality, women continue to be underrepresented in public service; and also make up just 24 percent of the U.S. Congress and 27 percent of Kansas state legislators; as of 2018 women represented only 15 percent of city administrators and 21 percent of mayors; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that increasing gender diversity in government improves effectiveness, increases public trust, and improves people's lives; female legislators have been found to be more bipartisan and handle a broader range of legislative agenda items over the course of their careers;

WHEREAS, organizations like the Women's Foundation and the League of Women Voters are committed to strengthening our democracy by promoting women's civic engagement and encouraging more active participation in government:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAURA KELLY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim the day of June 16th, 2019 as

Kansas Women's Voting Day

In Kansas and encourage all citizens to participate in this observance.



DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka
under the Great Seal of
the State this 21st day of
June, A.D. 2019

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Laura Kelly

Scott Schmitt
Secretary of State

Valerie Young
Assistant Secretary of State