

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS SHEILA KUEHL AND HILDA L. SOLIS August 6, 2019

**Centennial Celebration of the 19th Amendment – Women’s Suffrage**

All around the country, elected officials, community and business leaders, academics, commissioners, non-profit directors and others are coming together to designate August 26, 2020 as a national holiday to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Passed by Congress in 1919 and fully ratified in 1920, the 19th Amendment became a part of our national Constitution after decades of protest and struggle. The passage of the 19th Amendment did not, however, ensure suffrage for all women, as Native Americans did not gain the right to vote until they were granted U.S. citizenship in 1924, Asian Pacific Islander Americans did not gain the right to vote until 1952, and African-American and Latinx Americans suffered voter suppression tactics that disenfranchised them until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the 1975 Expansion of the Voting Rights Act.

Given the interest by regional leaders that the County of Los Angeles be involved in recognizing this anniversary, and wanting to ensure that any celebration reflects the diversity of the County and the fact that many people did not gain immediate access to

**MOTION**

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voting, the Los Angeles County Women and Girls Initiative (WGI) and the Los Angeles County Commission on Women created a joint committee where members from both groups hosted meetings with the community and County departments to determine how the County can best commemorate the anniversary of the 19th Amendment.

In addition, cities such as Long Beach, Pasadena, and institutions such as East Los Angeles Community College, have already begun the planning process to celebrate in their respective communities.

After hosting two public committee meetings and multiple meetings with County departments, community leaders, and supervisorial offices, there is a consensus that the goals for this anniversary should include:

- Elevate the history of the 19th Amendment with an emphasis on recognizing historical leaders from ~ 1891-1920 to 2020.
- Encourage voter registration in creative ways to populations and/or regions where there is low female voter registration.
- Promote voter registration efforts to youth who will be eligible to vote in 2020, especially girls.
- Utilize this outreach opportunity and momentum to also encourage Los Angeles residents to be counted during Census 2020.
- Identify a platform to list County departments, Greater Los Angeles cities, commissions, schools, museums, institutions of higher education, non-profits, and related organizations that are hosting public events or programs related to the centennial celebration.
- Partner with relevant County departments, commissions, community benefits organizations, cities, educational institutions, and related stakeholders to

ensure robust awareness of the centennial anniversary.

- Identify a permanent opportunity to commemorate the celebration and for the County to host something that is visual and attracts a large audience between the months of August 2019 and August 2020.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Declare August 2019 through August 2020 as the official timeframe for the County of Los Angeles to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution;
2. Direct all County departments to identify opportunities to mark the celebration to educate County employees, residents, clients, and partners. In addition, County departments should utilize the 100th Anniversary logo where possible, including the tag line, “Celebrating 100 years of passion, purpose and progress as we look to the past and craft the future”;
3. Direct Countywide Communications to collaborate with the WGI to develop a web-based calendar that will provide County departments and community organizers a place to list all public facing events commemorating the celebration;
4. Direct the Women and Girls Initiative to collaborate with the Department of Arts and Culture to identify opportunities to commission artists or organizations and create a permanent commemorative for the celebration, and report back to the Board of Supervisors in 120 days with options, including cost and projected timeframes;
5. Direct the Registrar Recorder/County Clerk to utilize the celebration to encourage voter registration of all eligible County residents, including the

- almost 400,000 women who are eligible to vote but are not yet registered;
6. Direct County departments to include educating women about the importance of civic engagement in departmental events by encouraging women to be counted as part of the census; and
  7. Direct the Registrar Recorder/County Clerk, Library, Natural History Museum, Department of Arts and Culture, Los Angeles County Office of Education, and related education partners to develop a literature review of regional women leaders active in the community since the time of the ratification. The literature review will be done from a multi-cultural, multi-generational lens given the unique patterns of migration and immigration Los Angeles County has witnessed over the last 100 years. This information will be used to develop curriculum for schools to educate students of all ages about the importance of civic engagement and the history of women in Los Angeles County.

**WE FURTHER MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Highlight specific celebratory activities including encouraging attendance at the Natural History Museum exhibit on the 19th Amendment being developed for the summer of 2020 to highlight the women of Los Angeles County and their role in women's suffrage and the importance of women in civic engagement, past and present; and
2. Proclaim that August 2019 through August 2020 be recognized as the official celebration period of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment.