

**TOWNSHIP OF VERONA  
COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION No. 2020-50**

A motion was made by Councilman Ryan; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath that the following resolution be adopted:

**SUPPORT FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE**

**WHEREAS**, the year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, guaranteeing and protecting women's right to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, this centennial offers an opportunity to commemorate a milestone of democracy; that the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the federal or state governments on account of gender; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey has had a long, storied history in the suffrage movement with New Jersey women playing a crucial role in pursuing the rights of women to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1776 women property owners were enfranchised under the New Jersey State Constitution, which was unique in the nation at the time. However, in 1807, the New Jersey Legislature eliminated the property requirement for voting rights and limited the ballot to white males; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1867 New Jersey residents Lucy Stone and Harry Blackwell organized the New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association (NJWSA), devoted to gaining women's suffrage; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1909 New Jersey's first open air suffrage rallies were held in Orange and Newark, led by Dr. Emma O. Gantz and Martha Klatshchken with NJWSA collecting 5,000 signatures for a petition in support of the federal amendment guaranteeing and protecting women's constitutional right to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, although the 1912 state referendum on woman's suffrage was soundly defeated in the New Jersey Legislature a corner was turned for the New Jersey suffrage movement; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1913 an automobile rally led by "General" Rosalie Jones traveled through New Jersey on the way to Washington, D.C., in a Suffrage Parade of over 8,000 marchers with many New Jersey women including event organizer Alice Paul; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1915 a second suffrage constitutional referendum was pursued in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts with active campaigns by many suffrage organizations, including the "Passing of the Torch of Liberty" via tug boats on the Hudson River from New York to New Jersey, but was defeated in all four states October 1915; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1917 New Jersey suffragists Allison Turnbull Hopkins, Julia Hulburt, Beatrice Reynolds Kinkead, and Minnie D. Abbott picketed in front of the White House as part of the Silent Sentinels and subsequently were arrested and imprisoned; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 4, 1919 Congress passed the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment guaranteeing all American women the right to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 9, 1920, New Jersey became the 29<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment granting women the right to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, shortly after the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Margaret Laird and Jennie Van Ness were the first two women elected to the New Jersey Assembly in 1921 and in 1925 Rebecca Estelle Bourgeois Winston of Estell Manor was New Jersey's first woman mayor.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of

Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, that in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment the Township of Verona will light the municipal building in purple, one of the colors of the New Jersey Suffrage movement, for the week of February 10, 2020; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township of Verona supports the efforts of New Jersey's Suffrage Centennial NJ Women Vote and strongly encourages local celebrations of this historic milestone; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Governor of the State of New Jersey Phil Murphy, the Lieutenant Governor of the State of New Jersey Sheila Y. Oliver, the Secretary of State Tahesha Way and New Jersey League of Municipalities.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy**

**NAYS:**

**THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA AT THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2020.**

  
JENNIFER KIERNAN  
MUNICIPAL CLERK

