

Resolution 10-E-18

**A Resolution in Support of Ratification by the Commonwealth of Virginia of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution**

**WHEREAS**, the United States Constitution does not explicitly guarantee equal rights and equal protection for the sexes;

**WHEREAS**, the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution and state constitutional statements of equality generally do not provide the strict scrutiny for sex-based classifications that is provided for classifications based on race, religion, and national origin;

**WHEREAS**, state laws are not uniform and federal laws are not comprehensive on this subject, and these laws can be repealed or reduced;

**WHEREAS**, the people of the United States continue to experience the negative effects of lack of political parity between men and women, workplace discrimination, health care inequities, disparate rates of poverty, rape and domestic violence assaults;

**WHEREAS**, the Equal Rights Amendment ("ERA") provides that "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex";

**WHEREAS**, the Amendment would help ensure women and men have the same constitutional protections;

**WHEREAS**, the ERA was passed by Congress in 1972, and has been ratified by 37 states, the most recent being Nevada in 2017 and Illinois in 2018;

**WHEREAS**, the time limit for the ERA appears only in the preamble;

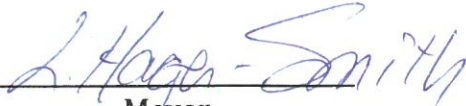
**WHEREAS**, Congress presently is considering a bill that removes the time limit for ratification of the ERA;

**WHEREAS**, for 47 years, the Virginia State Constitution has sought to protect Virginians from discrimination by the Commonwealth on the basis of sex; and

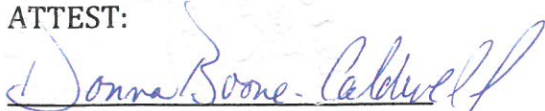
**WHEREAS**, the Town of Blacksburg embraces the principles of fair treatment for applicants for employment and its employees without discrimination on the basis of sex, and the Town prohibits sexual harassment in the workplace.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Town of Blacksburg that the Council hereby expresses its support for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Council urges the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia to ratify the ERA to the U.S. Constitution, as proposed by Congress on March 22, 1972, during the 2019 legislative session.

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk

Date of Adoption: October 23, 2018