

TOWN OF FARMVILLE  
Post Office Drawer 368  
Farmville, Virginia 23901

Gerald J. Spates, Town Manager  
Carol Anne Seal, Town Treasurer

434.392.5686  
Fax 434.392.3160



COUNCIL  
David E. Whitus, Mayor  
A. D. "Chuckie" Reid  
Brian Vincent  
Tommy Pairet  
Donald L. Hunter  
J.J. "Jamie" Davis  
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**Resolution in Support of Ratification by Virginia of the  
Equal Rights Amendment  
To the United States Constitution**

**WHEREAS,** equality under the law is a fundamental value of Americans and the people of the Town of Farmville; and

**WHEREAS,** legislation and court decisions have increased women's access to education, employment, and public service; and

**WHEREAS,** that same legislation can be repealed and the Supreme Court may strike legislation or retreat from its own precedent, thereby eliminating or abridging legal rights currently enjoyed by women, girls, and their families; and

**WHEREAS,** Americans value the continued participation of women in education, the military, public service, and other spheres of the society; and

**WHEREAS,** inclusion of the Equal Rights Amendment in the Constitution would require courts to apply the same strict level of scrutiny it applies to test the constitutionality of government action based on race, religion, or national origin; and

**WHEREAS,** an overwhelming majority of American reported in a 2015 poll that they support an amendment to the United States Constitution to guarantee equal rights for both men and women; and

**WHEREAS,** the Equal Rights Amendment was passed in 1972 by Congress, which imposed a seven-year ratification deadline on states, later extended to ten years; and

**WHEREAS,** the Constitution does not expressly authorize Congress to impose ratification deadlines on the states, and, moreover, if Congress does have such power, then it also has the power to extend or eliminate its deadlines; and

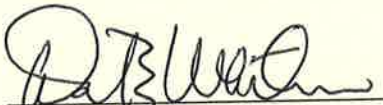
**WHEREAS,** the American Bar Association reaffirmed its support for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in 2016; and

**WHEREAS,** well after the 1982 deadline set by Congress, Nevada in 2017 and Illinois in 2018 ratified the Equal Rights Amendment, bringing the total number of states that have ratified the amendment to 37, just one shy of the 38 needed to satisfy the Constitutional requirement that an amendment be ratified by three-fourths of the states to become valid; and

**WHEREAS,** The Equal Rights Amendment states:  
Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on sex.  
Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.  
Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the ratification.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Town of Farmville urge the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, As proposed by Congress on March 22, 1972, during the 2019 legislative session.

Signed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December 2018



David E. Whitus  
Mayor  
Town of Farmville  
Farmville, Virginia