

# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, New York is a champion of equality and fairness, progressing women's rights through its advancement of initiatives to break down barriers that perpetuate discrimination and inequality based on gender; we are therefore proud to join in the national observance of Women's Equality Day, this year commemorating the 101<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in the United States of America achieved with the August 26, 1920 certification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, fulfilling women's quest for the right to vote – and forever symbolic of the first major victory by women in their efforts toward full equality; and

**Whereas**, throughout America's history, New York has been a leader in civil, human, and social rights – and issues impacting women – well illustrated by the number of suffragists who called New York State home, as well as the choice of Seneca Falls for the first Women's Rights Convention held in 1848, where 100 participants – 68 women and 32 men – signed the *Declaration of Sentiments* that outlined certain rights women should be given, including the right to vote; this historic meeting sparked the nationwide crusade for women's suffrage and, 69 years after, on Election Day November 6, 1917, women in New York State won the right to vote, forever affirming our state's place in history as the primary catalyst in the national movement which ultimately saw the vote granted to American women; and

**Whereas**, three years later, and more than forty years after its original introduction in the United States Congress in 1878, the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was officially adopted on August 26, 1920, giving women their deserved voice in the democratic process with the right to vote, representing the realized vision of generations of New York women – from Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Matilda Joslyn Gage, and Lucy Burns, who were among the earliest organizers and strategists – to Carrie Lane Chapman Catt, president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, who led the fight for the vote through state-by-state campaigns; and

**Whereas**, universal suffrage was not truly realized until the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, and we honor the courageous women of color who led and challenged the suffrage movement, from the women of the Iroquois Nation whose leadership influenced early suffragists to the remarkably visionary Black women, such as Sojourner Truth and Mary Burnett Talbert, who faced discrimination on the basis of both gender and race, yet rose to become forceful voices for women's suffrage, and for civil, economic, and social rights for women and formerly enslaved Black persons; and

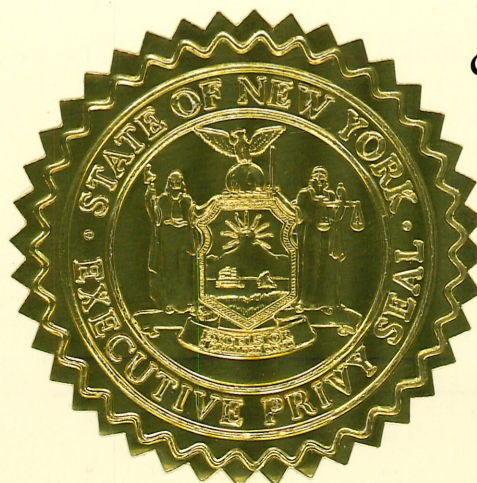
**Whereas**, we take pride in the progress our state and nation have made in reinforcing and expanding women's rights over the decades and recognize that we have not yet crossed all thresholds to fulfilling our mission and quest for true equality; today we celebrate the economic, social, and political accomplishments of women, honoring the courageous women who have made extraordinary contributions to their countries and communities, and we pause to remember the struggles waged by generations of women who have led the fight for equality and justice; and

**Whereas**, New York State always has and will stand up to defend human rights, combat discrimination, and ensure equal treatment for all people through laws and policies which reflect our belief that every individual must be treated fairly and equally in all areas; as we work to further advance equality for women, we join in celebrating this day and reaffirming New York State's progressive values and leadership in achieving full equality for all women, and proudly commemorate the 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of women securing the right to vote with the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment – a watershed achievement in the continued pursuit of full, unhindered, and unrestricted equality for all people;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim August 26, 2021 as

## WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

in the Empire State.



**Given** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany on this twenty-fifth day of August in the year two thousand twenty-one.

*Kathy Hochul*

Governor

*Karen Persichilli Keogh*

Secretary to the Governor  
Karen Persichilli Keogh