



WHEREAS, June 10, 2019 marked the 100-year anniversary of Wisconsin's ratification of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote as Wisconsin became the first to ratify the amendment with an overwhelming majority of 54 to 2 in the Assembly and 24 to 1 in the Senate; and

WHEREAS, then, as it is now, the country battled a pandemic while simultaneously recognizing and reconciling deep social upheaval in the fight for justice and liberty for all; and

WHEREAS, this victory for American values paved the way for further universalization of suffrage that would later embrace the many people of varying color, creed, and circumstance that were instrumental in winning the 72 year battle for women's suffrage at the time including: Native Americans who did not gain the right to vote until 1924, Asian Pacific Islander Americans who gained the right to vote in 1952, as well as Black and Latin Americans who suffered voter suppression until the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and 1975; and

WHEREAS, the movement for women's suffrage not only united women across the nation, across cultures, and across class lines but also found allies in their male counterparts who saw the humanity and strength in the women who had shared the burden of World War 1, westward expansion, and, of course, forming a more perfect union; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin-born Carrie Chapman met personally with President Woodrow Wilson to secure his support for suffrage by highlighting women's mighty, nation-shaping contributions and our local beloved namesake Lafollette after which many institutions of political integrity are named was further iconized by the contribution of first Lady Lafollette in the national fight for women's suffrage; and

WHEREAS, women today are running for office in unprecedented numbers, unfazed in the face of a global pandemic, routinized sexism that plagues their campaigns, and economic concerns that rival those brought on by World War 1.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Paul Esser, as Mayor of the City of Sun Prairie together with the Sun Prairie Common Council, City staff, and volunteer committee members, proclaim, honor and celebrate 100 years of women's suffrage in the U.S. on **August 26, 2020**. May all Sun Prairie residents' channel and honor the reverence and strength of those who have come before us to secure our right to vote by exercising their own right, even in the face of stressors, barriers and distractors. We, as a city, will continue work every day to honor and ensure that right.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Sun Prairie to be affixed on this the 26th day of August, 2020.

Paul Esser, Mayor