

By: Representatives Clarke, Cockerham, Bain, To: Rules
Bell (65th), Burnett, Chism, Currie, Ford
(73rd), Foster, Gibbs (72nd), Harness,
Holloway, Mangold, McCray, Mickens, Morgan,
Porter, Smith, Yates

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 30

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CELEBRATING MARCH 22, 2020, AS THE
2 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE NINETEENTH AMENDMENT
3 IN MISSISSIPPI, CELEBRATING AUGUST 26, 2020, AS THE 100TH
4 ANNIVERSARY OF THE NINETEENTH AMENDMENT BEING ADDED TO THE UNITED
5 STATES CONSTITUTION, AND REAFFIRMING MISSISSIPPI'S COMMITMENT TO
6 EMPOWERING AND UPLIFTING THE VOICES OF WOMEN ACROSS THIS GREAT
7 MAGNOLIA STATE.

8 WHEREAS, August 26, 2020, marks the 100th anniversary of the
9 Nineteenth Amendment becoming law throughout the United States of
10 America, granting women the right to vote; and

11 WHEREAS, Mississippi women fought long and hard for the right
12 to vote, both locally and nationally, before it was granted, and
13 they continually persevered in the face of resistance; and

14 WHEREAS, Mississippi was not one of the 36 states whose
15 support allowed the Nineteenth Amendment to become law; instead,
16 the state rejected ratification of the proposed amendment in March
17 1920 when the Senate ratified it but the House defeated it, making
18 Mississippi one of the 10 states that initially declined to
19 ratify; and



20 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Legislature finally ratified the
21 Nineteenth Amendment with no opposition on March 22, 1984; and

22 WHEREAS, the national battle for women's suffrage, from the
23 first women's rights convention to enfranchisement, lasted 72
24 years, and during that time, women from all walks of life,
25 political views and demographic backgrounds asked for the right to
26 voice their opinions at the polls; and

27 WHEREAS, thousands of Mississippi women passionately
28 advocated for the right to vote in the streets, in newspapers and
29 in the state and federal capitols; and

30 WHEREAS, Mississippi native Nellie Nugent Somerville accepted
31 a Vice Presidency in the National American Woman Suffrage
32 Association to assist national female leaders in organizing the
33 final push for Congressional approval of the amendment; and

34 WHEREAS, Nellie Nugent Somerville, Belle Kearney, Lily
35 Wilkinson Thompson, Pauline Orr and others led the state-wide
36 movement, meeting with political leaders to secure their support
37 for suffrage; and

38 WHEREAS, in the South and in Mississippi, African-American
39 women leaders were barred from state suffrage organizations
40 because of the racism of many people of their generation; and

41 WHEREAS, daughters, granddaughters, and great-granddaughters
42 of the women who fought so hard to vote have been making their
43 voices heard at the polls for nearly 100 years; and



44 WHEREAS, currently, women are running for office in
45 unprecedented numbers, following in the footsteps of great
46 suffragists; and

47 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association was
48 empowered by the slogan "Women's Suffrage Yesterday, Today and
49 Forever," and Mississippi still embodies that principle today; and

50 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
51 the historic landmarks of our nation's history, and the women's
52 right to vote is one such landmark that should be celebrated and
53 remembered:

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
55 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
56 THEREIN, That we do hereby celebrate March 22, 2020, as the 36th
57 Anniversary of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in
58 Mississippi, celebrate August 26, 2020, as the 100th anniversary
59 of the Nineteenth Amendment being added to the United States
60 Constitution, and reaffirm Mississippi's commitment to empowering
61 and uplifting the voices of women across this great Magnolia
62 State, and we urge all citizens to reflect on the great women and
63 men who tirelessly fought for women's suffrage.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
65 furnished to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

