



# Santa Fe County Proclamation

## PROCLAIMING AUGUST 2020 AS 'NATIONAL WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MONTH' *IN CELEBRATION, RECOGNITION AND HONOR OF* THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

Introduced by: Commissioner Anna Hansen

**WHEREAS**, the bold, courageous and powerful women who fought for the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution on August 26, 1920, deserve special celebration by Santa Fe County, especially on the 100th anniversary of its ratification in 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy and the fundamental right upon which all our civil liberties rest; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Constitution, adopted in 1789, left the boundaries of suffrage undefined and voter qualifications were delegated to the individual states and all states, with the exception of New Jersey, adopted constitutions that afforded the right to vote to land-owning white men and denied voting rights to women; and

**WHEREAS**, women first organized and collectively fought for suffrage at the national level in July of 1848; the campaign, which lasted over 72 years, is considered by many to be the most significant achievement of women in the Progressive Era; and

**WHEREAS**, the state of New Mexico was the 32<sup>nd</sup> state to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment on February 21, 1920; this act ensured women could more fully participate in the democracy of the United States and fundamentally changed the role of women in the civic life of the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, August 26, 2020, marks the centennial of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment by ¾ of the States (including New Mexico) which ensured that all across the country the right to vote could not be denied based on sex; and

**WHEREAS**, the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment did not guarantee suffrage for all people. Native American men and women did not gain the right to vote until 1948; for Asian Pacific Islander Americans (men and women) it was 1952; and African-American and Latin American men and women suffered voter suppression until passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and 1975; and

**WHEREAS**, Santa Fe County holds a special place in women's suffrage history as it is home to Adelina (Nina) Otero Warren, a noted suffragist, educator, and politician, whose suffrage work caught the attention of suffrage leader Alice Paul, who tapped Nina in 1917 to head the New Mexico chapter of the Congressional Union (precursor to the National Woman's Party); and



**WHEREAS**, Adelina (Nina) Otero Warren’s home, the Alfred M. Bergere House, which was built in the early 1870s and is located just steps from Santa Fe County’s Administrative Complex, was added to the Historic Santa Fe Foundation’s Register of Properties Worthy of Preservation in 1974, and was recently renamed to become the Otero-Bergere House by the Historic Santa Fe Foundation Board of Directors to honor the Otero family’s contributions to the community; and

**WHEREAS**, thousands of New Mexican women advocated for the right to vote on the streets, in the newspapers, in the state capital and throughout the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the Women’s Liberation Movement of the 1960-70’s sought equal rights and greater personal freedom for women due in part to the publication of Betty Friedan’s 1963 best-selling book “The Feminine Mystique,” which pointed out the disparities between the sexes at the time including that women held very few positions of power; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 26, 1970, 50 years after the passage of the 19th Amendment, 50,000 feminists marched down New York City’s Fifth Avenue, and throughout the United States demonstrations were held by the National Organization for Women (NOW), in support of three specific goals: equal opportunity employment and education, free abortion on demand, and establishment of 24/7 childcare centers, with signs that are now famous today: “Sisterhood is Powerful”; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1972, Title IX was signed into law forbidding discrimination based on gender in any educational program that received federal funds; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1973, after legal strategizing by NOW, the United States Supreme Court legalized abortion in all 50 states; and

**WHEREAS**, in January of 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law, The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, protecting the right of workers and clarifying that discrimination based on age, religion, national origin, race, sex and disability shall be recognized and rectified; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 21, 2017, the day after the inauguration of the 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States and in response to tensions caused by his anti-women remarks, women worldwide organized The Women’s March, the largest single-day protest in United States national history, to advocate for legislation and policies regarding human rights and other issues including women’s rights, immigration reform, healthcare reform, reproductive rights, climate crisis awareness, LBGTQ rights, workers’ rights and tolerance; and

**WHEREAS**, the fact that today women are active in local, state and national government and are running for office in unprecedented numbers reminds us that we all follow in the footsteps of these resolute American activist and suffragists; and

**WHEREAS**, the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution has played an important role





in advancing the right of women; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Senate passed a resolution on July 2, 2020, designating August 2020 as “National Women’s Suffrage Month”; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Congress passed a resolution in 1971 vowing to designate August 26<sup>th</sup> as “Women’s Equality Day” annually.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2020, AS:**

**WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE MONTH**

**The Board** recommends that residents and civic institutions:

1. Celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment, providing for women's suffrage, to the Constitution of the United States by safely participating in locally organized events during the month of August and especially on August 26, 2020, which is largely recognized as “National Equality Day”;
2. Honor the role of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in further promoting the core values of our democracy as promised by the Constitution of the United States;
3. Reaffirm the opportunity for students and adults in the county to learn about and commemorate the efforts of the women's suffrage movement and the role of women in our democracy; and
4. Reaffirm our desire to continue to strengthen democratic participation and to inspire future generations to cherish and preserve the historic precedent established under the 19th Amendment.

**APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED ON THIS 28 DAY OF JULY, 2020.**

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Henry P. Roybal, Chair  
Commissioner District 1

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Anna Hansen, Vice-Chair  
District 2

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Rudy N. Garcia, Commissioner  
District 3

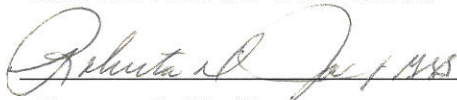
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anna T. Hamilton, Commissioner  
Commissioner District 4

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ed Moreno, Commissioner  
District 5

\_\_\_\_\_  
Katherine Miller  
County Manager

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

**ATTESTATION:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory S. Shaffer  
County Attorney

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Geraldine Salazar  
County Clerk