

Resolution No. 19-043

Resolution in support of an Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)

Whereas, the City of St. Louis Park supports equal rights for the citizens of St. Louis Park; and

Whereas, the Minnesota Constitution does not explicitly guarantee that all rights that it protects are held equally by all citizens without regard to gender; and

Whereas, bills have been introduced in both the House and Senate stating “equality under the law must not be abridged or denied on account of gender;” and

Whereas, women constitute over 50 percent of the citizenry and women play a critical role in families, the workplace, and in society as a whole, contributing to our economy and advancing our nation; and

Whereas, women continue to confront a lack of political parity, workplace discrimination, health care inequities, disparate rates of poverty, sexual assault and domestic violence; and

Whereas, the Equal Rights Amendment is required in order to provide gender-based equality in our courts and laws because the Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the 14th Amendment does not apply specifically to issues of gender; and

Whereas, although laws prohibiting gender discrimination exist, they can be repealed or reduced by a simple majority in the legislature; and

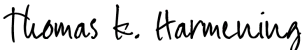
Whereas, an Equal Rights Amendment would help correct systemic gender discrimination; and

Whereas, Minnesota requested that Congress propose an Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in April of 1949 and then ratified the federal ERA in February of 1973 – yet still does not have sex or gender equality guaranteed in its own state constitution;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the City of St. Louis Park calls on the Minnesota Senate and House to pass a bill for an act proposing an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution, known as the Equal Rights Amendment, providing for gender equality under the law.

Reviewed for administration:

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Thomas K. Harmening, City Manager

Adopted by the City Council March 18, 2019

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Jake Spano, Mayor

Attest:

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Melissa Kennedy, City Clerk