

**WEST DEPTFORD TOWNSHIP**

**RESOLUTION 2020-89**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST DEPTFORD SUPPORTING THE  
CELEBRATION OF THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE**

**WHEREAS**, the year 2020 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution, guaranteeing and protecting women's right to vote and

**WHEREAS**, this centennial offers an opportunity to commemorate a milestone of democracy; that the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the federal or state governments on account of gender; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey has had a long, storied history in the suffrage movement with New Jersey women playing a crucial role in pursuing the rights of women to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1776 women property owners were enfranchised under the New Jersey State Constitution, which was unique in the nation at the time. However, in 1807, the New Jersey Legislature eliminated the property requirement for voting rights and limited the ballot to white males; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1867 New Jersey residents Lucy Stone and Harry Blackwell organized the New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association (NJSWA), devoted to gaining women's suffrage; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1909 New Jersey's first open air suffrage rallies were held in Orange and Newark, led by Dr. Emma O. Gantz and Martha Klatshchken with NJWSA collecting 5,000 signatures for a petition in support of the federal amendment guaranteeing and protecting women's constitutional right to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, although the 1912 state referendum on woman's suffrage was soundly defeated in the New Jersey Legislature, a corner was turned for the New Jersey suffrage movement; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1913 an automobile rally led by "General" Rosalie Jones traveled through New Jersey on the way to Washington, D.C. in a Suffrage Parade of over 8,000 marchers with many New Jersey women including event organizer Alice Paul; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1915 a second suffrage constitutional referendum was pursued in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts with active campaigns by many suffrage organizations, including the "Passing of the Torch of Liberty" via tug boats on the Hudson River from New York to New Jersey, but was defeated in all four states October 1915; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1917 New Jersey suffragists Allison Turnbull Hopkins, Julia Hulbert, Beatrice Reynolds Kinkead, and Minnie D. Abbott picketed in front of the White House as part of the Silent Sentinels and subsequently were arrested and imprisoned; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 4, 1919 Congress passed the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment guaranteeing all American women the right to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 9, 1920, New Jersey became the 29<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment granting women the right to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, shortly after the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Margaret Laird and Jennie Van Ness were the first women elected to the New Jersey Assembly in 1921 and in 1925 Rebecca Estelle Bourgeois Winston of Estell Manor was New Jersey's first woman mayor.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Township Committee of West Deptford Township, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, that in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, The Township of West Deptford will light the municipal building purple, one of the colors of the New Jersey Suffrage movement, for the week of February 10; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Township of West Deptford supports the efforts of New Jersey's Suffrage Centennial NJ Women Vote and strongly encourages local celebrations of this historic milestone; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Governor, Secretary of State and New Jersey League of Municipalities.

**ADOPTED** at the Regular Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of West Deptford held on February 5, 2020.

**TOWNSHIP OF WEST DEPTFORD**



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DENICE DICARLO, Mayor

**ATTEST:**



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LEE ANN DEHART, Registered Municipal Clerk

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Lee Ann DeHart, Registered Municipal Clerk, of the Township of West Deptford, in the County of Gloucester, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was presented and duly adopted by the Township Committee at a meeting of the Township of West Deptford held on February 5, 2020.



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LEE ANN DEHART, Registered Municipal Clerk