



PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY 2025

WHEREAS, August 26, 1920, tens of millions of women won voting rights, the greatest expansion of democracy in U.S. history, yet 105 years later women still have not achieved full equality and face ongoing and increasing threats of discrimination, violence, loss of bodily autonomy, and restrictions on voting rights; and

WHEREAS, although on January 27, 2020, Virginia became the final of the requisite 38 states to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, fulfilling all the requirements of the U.S. Constitution, yet the ERA has not been fully recognized and published, allowing gender-based discrimination to continue without recourse under the foundational document undergirding all our laws; and

WHEREAS, federal laws ensuring the equal rights and safety of women can be and are currently being weakened or removed, with the U.S. Supreme Court retreating from its own precedent to take away previous constitutional rights, impeding women's ability to make decisions about their own bodies, families and futures, and causing irreparable harm and unnecessary deaths; and

WHEREAS, females make up nearly 52 percent of Albemarle County's population and the Albemarle County Government has an appropriate and legitimate role in securing and defending gender equality in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that we, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, do hereby recognize

August 26, 2025

as

Women's Equality Day

in celebration of all who worked to gain voting rights for women; in recognition of all who have continued the fight for gender equity; and in support of all citizens and lawmakers working today to preserve democracy and guarantee equal rights for all under the law in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States.

Signed this 20th day of August 2025.

Jim H. Andrews, Chair
Albemarle Board of County Supervisors