



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

March 10, 2021

David S. Ferriero
United States Archivist
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740

RE: Support for Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment

Dear Mr. Ferriero,

On February 16, 2021, the City Council of Long Beach, California, voted unanimously to support the certification and publication by the National Archivist of the State of Virginia's ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and to support Senate Joint Resolution 1, eliminating the deadline for ratification.

The City of Long Beach supports the legal equality of the sexes proposed by the ERA, which would ensure that people have the same constitutional protections regardless of sex. The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and state constitutional statements of equality generally do not provide the strict scrutiny for sex-based classifications that is provided for classifications based on race, religion, and national origin.

Following its passage by Congress in 1972, the ERA has been ratified by 38 states, including most recently in January 2020 by the State of Virginia. The time limit for ERA ratification only appears in the preamble, and the joint resolution in Congress would remove the deadline for ratification of the ERA. The City supports certification and publication by the National Archivist of the ERA's full constitutional ratification.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Senator Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Senator Alex Padilla
The Honorable Senator Cardin, Maryland
The Honorable Congressman Alan Lowenthal, 47th District
The Honorable Congressman Nanette Barragan, 44th District