



Volume 68, Issue 4 Summer 2019
Post Office Box 8453 • Columbia, SC 29202

OUR NEW LWVSC POSITION: LET'S MAKE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR!

“LWVSC supports gender and racial equity, including the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, and promotion of fairness in hiring, advancement, pay, and in representation in public appointments.”

Equity and equality are the core values of this position proposed at LWVSC state convention by the League of Women Voters of the Charleston Area. We deeply appreciate LWVSC's leadership and the convention's unanimous support of the position, which will be included in the 2019-2021 Agenda for Action. We believe it is also an important commitment to the convention's overarching message – Celebrating Democracy, Embracing Diversity.

In principle, the words of the position are woven into many different dimensions have also been carried forward in locally focused work on the importance of voter education and engagement; public education and school board election; education on criminal justice reform; and partnership with organizations supporting the City of Charleston's Apology for Slavery.

The Charleston League embedded the Equal Rights Amendment in the position because of its energetic program of community ERA education that began two years ago. Only 13 states have failed to ratify the ERA. It now stands as a legislative issue in 11 of those 13 states – including South Carolina. One more state is needed to meet the threshold for an amendment to the United States Constitution.

The tallest hurdle for ratification of the ERA stands deep in history. The United States' foundational structure was created by men who did not allow for diversity. For example, Thomas Jefferson, principal author of the Declaration of Independence wrote sometime later: “Were our state a pure democracy there would still be excluded from our deliberations women,

who, to prevent depravation of morals and ambiguity of issues, should not mix promiscuously in gatherings of men.”

The ERA looks forward to a legal system in which each person will be judged on the basis of individual merit and not on an unalterable trait of birth that bears no relationship to need or ability.

— Melinda Hamilton, President, LWV of the Charleston Area