

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 1972 Congress designated August 26 as Women's Equality Day to commemorate the certification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which guarantees that the right to vote shall not be denied on the basis of sex; and

WHEREAS, the 19th Amendment was certified due to the sacrifices and tireless work of women from every state, race, cultural and religious backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, now over a century after the certification of the 19th Amendment, many women still face barriers to voting. Particularly women who are of color, immigrant, LGBTQ+, disabled and otherwise marginalized; and

WHEREAS, despite working to pass the 19th Amendment, women of color were effectively denied the right to vote through state laws, violence and discrimination for another 45 years until the passage of the Voting Rights act in 1965; and

WHEREAS, Black women continue to lead the way in communities that are most impacted and continue to protect voting rights and build communities and policies that are equitable and safe for all; and

WHEREAS, while the fight for women's equality has always been grounded in the right to vote, a century after it was first introduced, the fight to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment still continues; and

WHEREAS, one year after Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Center Supreme Court decision, multiple states have attacked the right to bodily autonomy for women and those who can become pregnant; and

WHEREAS, the state of Washington leads the country in accessible and equitable voting rights thanks to legislation centering accessible voter registration, mail-in ballots, and restoring voting rights for individuals convicted of a felony who have served their time; and

WHEREAS, Washington State has created an Address Confidentiality Program allowing people fleeing gender-based violence to register to vote without fear of allowing their abusers to see their address. People in this program are provided a substitute mailing address that can be used to register to vote and other government creating records; and

WHEREAS, Over three quarters of women responding to a 2022 YWCA USA survey were united in supporting policy solutions that end gender-based violence and support local domestic violence services; and

WHEREAS, Paid family leave is a top priority for most women, but particularly women of color. Over three quarters of AAPI, Indigenous, and Latina women said passing a federal paid leave law is one of their top 10 priorities for Congress; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Olympia City Council, does hereby proclaim August 26th, 2024 as

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

in the city of Olympia and celebrates the continued effort for equality for all women, and the removal of barriers to the resources, support and opportunities women need to live thriving and healthy lives.

**SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON THIS 13th DAY OF
AUGUST 2024.**

OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL

Dontae Payne, Mayor