

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** on August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave American women the right to vote; and
- WHEREAS,** on this 97th anniversary of the 19th Amendment we celebrate the progress that has been made towards guaranteeing the right to participate in our democracy regardless of gender; and
- WHEREAS,** we also recognize the work that still needs to be done to overcome the gender inequality that effects women’s economic security, health care and safety; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont women still struggle to achieve economic security for their families due to a lack of affordable childcare and unequal pay; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont women earned 84 cents for every dollar a man earned in 2015; and
- WHEREAS,** closing Vermont’s gender pay gap would add \$1 billion to the state’s economy and would bring the rate of poverty in Vermont down by 57 percent; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont is ranked second in the nation for percentage of legislators that are women, totaling 39.4 percent, which has remained steady since 1989 and even declined this year; and
- WHEREAS,** of the 296 statewide officers elected in Vermont since 1778, only 11 have been women, and Vermont is one of only two states that have never sent a woman to Congress; and
- WHEREAS,** only 21 percent of select board members, 40 percent of K-12 superintendents, 12.5 percent of mayors, and only 8 percent of Vermont’s highest grossing company leaders are women; and
- WHEREAS,** in pursuit of equal rights for women, Vermont must strive to set an example ensuring that all young women are able to live full and healthy lives; and

WHEREAS,

today we recognize the accomplishments that so many women fought so hard to achieve, and rededicate ourselves to tackling the challenges that remain and expanding opportunity and representation for women and girls in Vermont; and

WHEREAS,

August 26 is the anniversary of the certification of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, the first time a law purported to give all women citizens of the U.S. the right to vote.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, do hereby proclaim August 26, 2017 as

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 22nd day of August, A.D. 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott", written over a horizontal line.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittney L. Wilson", written over a horizontal line.
Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs