



The ERA in Illinois: Action Brief



NOW Urges That:

NOW members call your State [Senator](#) and [Representative](#) to ask that they vote “YES” and co-sponsor the Federal Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution **SJRCA0004**.

Who is your representative?

Illinois ERA Status:

Introduced by Sen. Heather Steans, the Illinois ERA (SJRCA0004) is currently in the Illinois General Assembly Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Amendments. In order for the bill to pass and be ratified to the U.S. Constitution, the Illinois ERA must:

- Be voted out of the [Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Amendments](#),
- Pass the Illinois General Assembly Senate by $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote, &
- Pass the Illinois General Assembly the House by $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote.

As the bill continues to navigate the legislative process, we will post updates.

Current Status of Three State:

On March 20th, Nevada became the 36th State to ratify the ERA. Currently, there are two state ratifications needed to ratify the ERA as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. **If the Illinois ratifies the ERA, only one additional state ratification is needed to fulfill the [Three-State Strategy](#).**

Illinois ERA History:

Illinois has been at the forefront of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) ratification fight since the amendment's introduction in 1972. Every year from 1972 to 1982 the ERA was introduced in the Illinois legislature; it never passed both chambers in the same year. In the midst of this activism, Illinois changed its rules to require a three-fifths majority to ratify a constitutional amendment, thereby ensuring that simple majority votes in favor of the ERA did not count. This change was an attempt to stall ERA progress in Illinois.

This advocacy intensified. As the ERA ratification deadline approached in 1982, seven women went on a public hunger strike at Illinois' capital. Other women chained themselves to the rotunda of the building, only to be thrown into trash dumpsters outside in the middle of the night by police forces.

On May 22, 2014, the Illinois Senate voted to ratify the ERA with a tally of 39 to 11. Though the bill did not pass through the Illinois House of Representatives, this represents movement in the Illinois' rich history of ERA advocacy.