

THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT STRATEGIES FOR RATIFICATION

WHAT IS THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT?

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is a proposed Constitutional amendment designed to guarantee that *“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.”* Since the ERA was introduced in 1923, feminist activists continue to advocate for the ERA through legislative action, marches and rallies, and public education on the importance of this crucial amendment.



Because of this tireless activism, the ERA has been ratified by 36 of the 38 states necessary for passage-- and 21 states have added similar amendments to their state constitutions. On March 20, 2017, Nevada became the 36th State to ratify the ERA, this underscores momentum on the road to constitutional equality.

WHY WE NEED AN EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Equality in pay, job opportunities, political structure, education, reproductive health care, and education--in particular for women of color, women with disabilities, and the LGBTQIA+ community--will remain elusive without a guarantee in the U.S. Constitution. The progress we have made—and must continue to make—towards women’s equality can be lost at any time because those advances depend on legislation that can be (and has been) weakened or repealed by Congress. Given the current political climate, this is more of a concern than ever.

An April 2012 poll for Daily Kos and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) found that in the U.S., **91% of individuals believe that men and women should have equal rights affirmed by the U.S. Constitution.** A 2001 Opinion Research Corporation poll showed that

72% of the respondents mistakenly assumed that the Constitution already includes a guarantee of gender equality. With this data in mind--the popularity of an ERA provides further evidence to support that the time for constitutional gender equity is NOW.

RATIFY THE
EQUAL
RIGHTS
AMENDMENT



STRATEGIES FOR RATIFICATION

Though passed by Congress in 1972 and ratified by 36 of the 38 States necessary for passage; the deadline for ERA ratification passed in 1982. Because of this setback--there are now two different strategies to ratify the ERA. At this time, all Federal ERA legislation--**Senate Joint Resolution 6, House Joint Resolution 33, Senate Joint Resolution 5, and House Joint Resolution 53**--is in the House and Senate Committee on Judiciary.



THREE STATE (NOW TWO-STATE!) STRATEGY

The “Three-State” Strategy seeks to remove the 1982 deadline for ERA ratification. If this strategy is successful, 36 of the 38 currently ratified states are in play--and activists have a clear path to continue the ratification process with a focus on ERA Target States such as Virginia, Illinois, North Carolina, and Florida.

THREE STATE LEGISLATION

Using the precedent of the 27th Amendment, which was ratified more 203 years after its 1798 passage, **Senate Joint Resolution 5 and House Joint Resolution 53** seek to enact a new timeline that allows for the ERA to be eligible for ratification. If this legislation introduced by Sen. Benjamin Cardin (D-MD) and Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA) passes, the existing 36 state ratifications would still be in effect, and only two additional states would be needed to successfully ratify the ERA.



START-OVER STRATEGY

The Start-Over Strategy aims to “restart” the ERA ratification process. With this clean slate, activists in all states can advocate through their state governments to reignite the ratification process.

START-OVER LEGISLATION

Senate Joint Resolution 6 and House Joint Resolution 33 seek to reintroduce the ERA as a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution, effectively restarting the ratification and bill passage process. This traditional legislation introduced by Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) would ratify the ERA with the Constitution's Article V ratification process.

TAKE ACTION!

Want to get involved in activism to ratify the ERA? Below are action steps to make Constitutional Equality a reality.

1. ADVOCATE IN THE STATES!

Check out NOW's Take Action: Unratified Target States action brief for next steps!

2. SHARE YOUR VISION FOR EQUALITY!

NOW's Visions for Equality Campaign is dedicated to capturing and sharing the vast spectrum of images and stories informed by the unique experiences of women. We are asking all activists to come together and submit their own interpretation of equality. We want to hear from YOU.



Check out NOW's how-to guide to create and submit your vision!

3. CALL YOUR FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

Call your Representatives at 202-224-3121.

Don't know the name of your Representatives? Check here:

<https://whoismyrepresentative.com/>

"Hello, my name is [name] and my zip code is [zip code]. I am calling to ask that [name of representative] co-sponsor and vote "YES" on all introduced Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) legislation, including: S.J. Res. 5, H.J. Res. 53, S.J. Res. 6, and H.J. Res. 33. Equality in pay, job opportunities, political structure, education, and health care will remain elusive without the guarantee of gender equity in the U.S. Constitution. 91% of individuals believe that men and women should have equal rights affirmed by the U.S. Constitution. The time for constitutional gender equity is NOW, I implore you to protect women's rights and support the ERA!"

4. TEXT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Send your representatives a text using Resistbot!

Text "RESIST" to 50409 to send a message to your Representative. Resistbot will transmit your text as a fax to your Representative's Office.

"Senator/ Representative [Name of Representative], please support all Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) legislation including, S.J. Res. 5, H.J. Res. 53, S.J. Res. 6, and H.J. Res. 33. Women are still not guaranteed equal rights under the U.S. Constitution; the ERA would also make it significantly more difficult to roll back progress on women's equality. I implore you to protect women's rights and support the ERA!"