

LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL ACTIONS TO ENSURE ERA RATIFICATION

WHEREAS, the national Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is within one state from being ratified at the national level; and

WHEREAS, during the Trump administration, the need for the ERA is becoming increasingly apparent and urgent; and

WHEREAS, the deadline for national ratification is listed in the preamble, and not voted on in the states, meaning that it has no binding impact; and

WHEREAS, Maine, New York and Minnesota are among the many states moving forward to pass and ratify state-level ERAs; and

WHEREAS, the United States is about to enter a historic presidential election in 2020; and

WHEREAS, 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of women winning the right to vote and almost a century of struggle for an Equal Rights Amendment;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we encourage national, state and local National Organization for Women (NOW) chapters to question all candidates, at all levels, to ensure they will support and prioritize full equality for women including ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in states with no state-level ERA, NOW chapters make introducing, passing and ratifying a state ERA a high priority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in states that have not ratified the national ERA, NOW chapters work with local governments to pass resolutions that urge state representatives and senators to support ratification, as well as mobilize members, allies and activists to lobby for ERA ratification; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW chapters consider using state NOW PACs to endorse state candidates who support ratification of the ERA and defeat those standing in the way of ratification and full equality for women; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW chapters urge corporate entities to use their economic power to pressure legislators to join the 21st century and ratify the ERA; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that national NOW support, facilitate and provide resources for enacting ERAs in state constitutions, ratifying federally in the remaining states and passing legislation to remove the deadline.