

# PROCLAMATION

## WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY ANNUALLY ON THE 26TH OF AUGUST

**WHEREAS,** Women's Equality Day, observed annually on August 26, commemorates the certification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, a landmark achievement that affirmed women's legal right to vote and transformed the American electorate; and

**WHEREAS,** this day honors the courageous women—organizers, trailblazers, and everyday citizens—who, despite exclusion and injustice, stood up and spoke out to claim their place in democracy. We also recognize that for many women, especially women of color, Indigenous women, and immigrant women, full access to the vote and equal participation in civic life came only after generations of continued advocacy and struggle; and

**WHEREAS,** while some women gained the right to vote in 1920, Native American women were not recognized as citizens until 1924, Chinese American women until 1943, Japanese and other Asian American women until 1952, and Black women faced ongoing suppression until the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. These milestones reflect both the resilience of women and the persistent need to defend equity in every generation; and

**WHEREAS,** Women's Equality Day challenges us to reflect not only on the victories of the past but also on the pressing work ahead—to ensure that all women, including transgender women, women with disabilities, and women of all races, ethnicities, and socioeconomic backgrounds, are fully included in our civic, social, and economic life; and

**WHEREAS,** we further recognize and thank the women in public service roles—elected officials, municipal leaders, and government staff—whose leadership, vision, and dedication shape policy, advocate for justice, and ensure inclusive governance at all levels; and

**WHEREAS,** Oak Park's history of progress and commitment to equity is strengthened every day by women who organize, speak up, run for office, launch businesses, lead families, and reimagine the future. We reaffirm our belief that every girl and woman deserve the opportunity to thrive, lead, and live free from discrimination or limitation.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim **August 26, 2025**, as **Women's Equality Day** in the Village of Oak Park. We invite all residents to reflect on the sacrifices made by those who came before us, celebrate the women leading in our community today, and recommit to a future where equality is not just a value, but a lived reality—for all women.

**DATED** this 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.

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Vicki Scaman  
Village President

**ATTEST**

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Christina M. Waters  
Village Clerk