

PROCLAMATION

Women's Equality Day Annually on the 26th of August

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has designated August 26th, the date the Nineteenth Amendment was certified, as Women's Equality Day; and

WHEREAS, Women's Equality Day commemorates the struggles of women to be heard, as fierce advocates who gained the statutory right to vote. Also known as women's suffrage, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees all American women the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, the 19th Amendment changed Federal law and the face of the American electorate forever by legally recognizing women as equal citizens. However, while women in some states could already vote before 1920, women in some states—particularly those of color—were blocked from voting after ratification; and

WHEREAS, the voting rights of Native American women were not recognized until 1924. For Chinese American women, it was 1943, and for Japanese and other Asian American women it was 1952; and

WHEREAS, while African American women were quite active in the women's suffrage movement of the early 19th century, they remained barred from voting for decades after their white counterparts. It wasn't until passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965 that African American women were granted the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, Women's Equality Day gives us an opportunity to reflect on the continued struggle for equality in the workplace and the role of women in our public life. Women in public service and government have long served this nation by working to clear barriers, enforce laws, implement new ideas, and challenge stereotypes.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim August 26, 2024, as Women's Equality Day. The Village of Oak Park will commemorate Women's Equality Day as a national day celebrating the importance of the women's suffrage movement and the work to secure and expand equal rights today. I call upon the residents of Oak Park to celebrate and continue to build on our country's progress toward gender equality and to defend and strengthen the right to vote.

DATED this 27th day of August, 2024.

Vicki Scaman
Village President

ATTEST

Christina M. Waters
Village Clerk