



Declaration of Statewide Celebration

Whereas, the centennial of woman suffrage in Oregon will occur in 2012, and

Whereas the movement for woman suffrage in Oregon began in 1870, with local suffrage associations in Salem and Albany, and

Whereas, Oregon placed the question of votes for women on the ballot six times, more than any other state, and

Whereas, Oregon voters approved Amendment 1 on November 5, 1912, amending Article 2, Section 2 of the Oregon state constitution to read “citizen” instead of “white male citizen” when describing the right to vote, and

Whereas woman suffrage was one of the earliest uses of the Oregon system of initiative and referendum, and

Whereas, Amendment 1 took immediate effect after November 5, 1912 and Oregon women voted as early as December 1912 in city elections and continued to exercise their right to the elective franchise thereafter, and

Whereas, not all Oregon women were considered citizens in 1912, leaving the voting status of some Native American and first generation Asian American women unchanged by Amendment 1 to be addressed in legislation in 1925 and 1952, and

Whereas, Oregon women have continued to claim civic equality through office holding, jury service, and other aspects of full citizenship in the years following 1912, and

Whereas, the 42-year-long campaign to achieve voting rights in Oregon is a vital part of the history of this state, and

Whereas, Oregon women participated in national effort to achieve a federal suffrage amendment,

Therefore, the Oregon Heritage Commission hereby declares the 100th anniversary of the adoption of woman suffrage as a Statewide Celebration in the year 2012, and encourages all Oregonians to learn about its history, participate in the celebration’s activities, and vote.

Approved by the Oregon Heritage Commission
February 2, 2010

George Kramer, Chair

