

## Washington's Role

Article V of the Constitution gives Congress broad interpretive powers over the amendment process. In January of 2020, **the House passed a resolution to remove the deadline** that was set on the ERA back in the '70s. But the legislation died in the Senate when the Chair of the Judiciary Committee — Lindsey Graham — blocked it.

But in January 2021 — **S.J.Res 1 and H.J.Res 17** — new resolutions to remove the deadline were introduced into each chamber. Since the House passed their resolution last year, we expect theirs to succeed. But, taking nothing for granted, we need to contact our legislators in both chambers.

**Go to [equalmeansera.org/blog](http://equalmeansera.org/blog)**, January 2021, and use the links to check the progress of these resolutions. Contact information for Senators Graham and Scott as well as your House Representative is provided. Give them a call.



**80%**

of Americans think equal rights are guaranteed in the Constitution.

**THEY ARE NOT!**



In the words of the late  
**Justice Antonin Scalia:**

|| *Certainly the Constitution does not require discrimination on the basis of sex. The only question is whether it prohibits it. It doesn't.* ||

## What you can do NOW!

**Go to [EqualMeansERA.org](http://EqualMeansERA.org)**

**Use the links in the January 2021 BLOG** to find out where the federal deadline resolutions stand, and use the **HOUSE** and **SENATE SCORECARD** to see where your state legislators stand. If your representatives have yet to sign on, call them and ask them to do so. **TAKE ACTION** gives you the legislator look-up, contact info, talking points, and letter and postcard writing tips to help you in your advocacy.

**August 18  
2020**

Marks the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote. The 19th Amendment gave us that right. The 28th Amendment — the ERA — would complete our journey to become full citizens with equal protection under law.

We need you to **Spread the Word** within your communities — where you live, work, play and worship. Tell your clubs and organizations about the ERA, and ask them “as a group” to support it, as others have done. Then ask them to encourage their members “as individuals” to contact their legislators as well.

**Vote for Candidates Who Support the ERA.**

Make sure you know where they stand. Make sure they know where you stand. Tell them support of the ERA is not negotiable.

**WE CAN DO THIS** ... but only if every legislator hears support for the ERA from their constituents. We'll get this done if each and every one of us tells our legislators ... **IT'S TIME TO RATIFY THE ERA!**

**Join us at Equal Means ERA  
and help make equal rights for all  
the law of the land!**

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

**The Equal Rights  
Amendment**

**EQUAL  
MEANS  
ERA  
SOUTH CAROLINA**

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## What is the ERA?

The ERA is an amendment to the United States Constitution that would guarantee equal rights to all Americans, regardless of sex. The ERA would provide a fundamental and universal legal remedy against discrimination for both women and men.

## A little Herstory

Written by suffragist Alice Paul, the ERA was first proposed in 1923 and has been introduced into every legislative session of the U.S. Congress since. It wasn't until 1972 that Congress over-

whelmingly approved it (over 90%!) and sent it to the states for ratification. The vote of 3/4ths of state legislatures (38) is required to make an amendment into law.

**1920**

Women's suffrage

**1923**

ERA proposed

Within the first 5 years, 35 state legislatures ratified, but by then a strong and well organized opposition took hold. Even though the 7-year deadline was extended to 10, on June 30, 1982 — when the extension expired — the ERA fell 3 states short.

## So why now?

On March 22, 2017, 45 years to the day Congress sent the ERA to the states for ratification, Nevada became the 36th state to ratify. Illinois followed in May of 2018, and on January 15, 2020, Virginia became the 38th.

While that number fulfills the constitutional count, there are obstacles that must be removed before the ERA can take effect. **And in South Carolina, the work for equality must continue with state ratification.**

## Did you know?

**The ERA is the most proposed amendment in U.S. history.** In 1940, the Republican Party became the first major political party to include it in its election platform. Today 94% of Americans support the ERA: 97% of Democrats; 90% of Republicans; and 92% of Independents.



**The only right women have in the U.S. Constitution is the right to vote.** Women do not have “equal justice under law,” and the ERA was written to correct that omission. Our court system currently holds sex discrimination to a lesser standard of judicial review, which negatively affects the result of a fair judgment. The ERA would raise that standard — so that sex would be at par with race and religion — when seeking judicial relief.



**Laws protect from sex discrimination.** But laws are limited, and only pertain to certain types of employment or education. They are not comprehensive and differ from state to state. And laws are subject to interpretation and revocation by whichever legislative body, court or administration is currently in power. **Laws are fragile.** A gain in one circumstance can easily be lost in another.



**The 14th Amendment provides no protection.** It was one of three amendments written after the Civil War to define the status of the newly freed slaves. Women were purposely excluded. Any court rulings require interpretation, and have no more permanence than current laws.

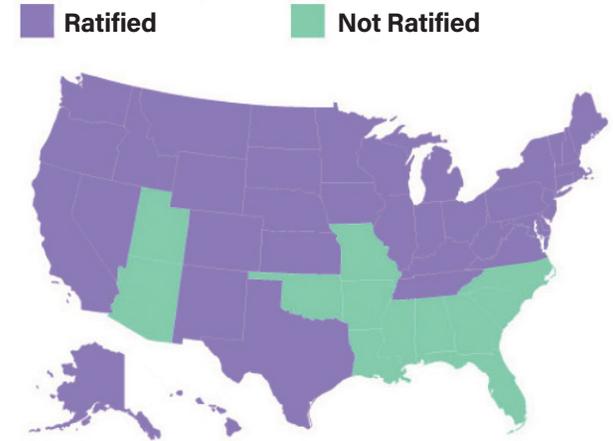


**An amendment to our Constitution is the only way to assure equal rights for all Americans, regardless of sex.** Twenty-six states have ratified ERAs within their state constitutions. It's time for the Equal Rights Amendment to be ratified at the federal level, to protect equal rights for all, regardless of state or jurisdiction.

## South Carolina is one of 12 states yet to ratify the ERA, but our history gives us hope.

In March of 1972 — the same month Congress sent the ERA to the states for ratification — the SC House unanimously voted to ratify (83-0). But when the resolution was sent to the Senate, it was held in committee for years.

### IT'S NOW OUR TIME TO GET IT DONE!



**The South Carolina House and Senate have ERA resolutions before them in both chambers (H.3258 and S.262).** We need your legislators to sign-on as cosponsors. To find out if they have, go to [equalmeansera.org](http://equalmeansera.org).

**The cities of Charleston and Columbia have passed resolutions of support.** Places of worship, institutions and organizations are declaring their support. **Our legislators need to know that their constituents support the ERA.**

“Every constitution written since the end of World War II includes a provision that men and women are citizens of equal stature. Ours does not.”

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg