

**2019 -- H 5981**

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LC002235  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019**

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**H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N**

**PROCLAIMING APRIL 10, 2019, TO BE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF "THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF RHODE ISLAND"**

Introduced By: Representatives Carson, Ruggiero, Corvese, Speakman, and Donovan

Date Introduced: April 10, 2019

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that has, over  
2 its distinguished past, played a critical role in fostering civil debate and shaping public policy in  
3 myriad ways to reform government and create a more just and equitable society; and

4           WHEREAS, Carrie Chapman Catt, the President of the National Woman Suffrage  
5 Association, proposed the National League of Women Voters as a department of the National  
6 Suffrage Association at its convention in St. Louis, Missouri, on March 19, 1919, a year before  
7 the 19th Amendment was passed; and

8           WHEREAS, A state charter was secured for the League of Women Voters of the Rhode  
9 Island State Division by the Rhode Island Equal Suffrage Association on April 1, 1919; and

10           WHEREAS, Ms. Chapman campaigned tirelessly, across the United States, for passage  
11 of the 19th Amendment and was successful when it was finally passed in 1920. Another key  
12 reason Ms. Chapman founded The League of Women Voters was the hope that by motivating the  
13 twenty million American women who could now vote, they would use their new right in ways  
14 that would influence and shape public policy and the elected officials making these decisions; and

15           WHEREAS, Through the years, the League has sponsored numerous "Get Out The Vote"  
16 campaigns, and sponsored and hosted Presidential debates in 1976, 1980, and 1984. The League  
17 has also played a leading role at critical junctures in American history including, President  
18 Truman inviting the League to serve as a consultant to the United States delegation at the United  
19 Nations Charter Conference in 1945. In the 1960s, League membership peaked at 157,000

1 members. In support of the Civil Rights movement, the League supported equal access to  
2 education and employment; and

3 WHEREAS, More recently, the League of Women Voters has strongly advocated in  
4 support of protecting our environment, health care rights and access, and the protection of our  
5 voting rights in addition to supporting legislation to make it easier to register, such as the  
6 National Registration Act of 1993, commonly known as the “Motor-Voter Act” which required  
7 states to offer the opportunity to register to vote to anyone who applies for, or renews a driver’s  
8 license; and

9 WHEREAS, For 100 years the League of Women Voters of Rhode Island and the League  
10 of Women Voters of Providence have collaborated with other organizations to increase civic  
11 participation and fight for important reforms such as fair elections, open government, campaign  
12 finance reform, education and environmental protection. It is fitting to honor and recognize the  
13 League’s numerous accomplishments and thank them for their advocacy on behalf of the rights’  
14 of women, minorities, and other historically disadvantaged groups; now, therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
16 Providence Plantations hereby joyously celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the  
17 League of Women Voters of Rhode Island on April 10, 2019; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
19 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Ms. Virginia Kase, Chief Executive Officer,  
20 League of Women Voters, and Ms. Jane Koster, President of the Rhode Island League of Women  
21 Voters.

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