

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

- WHEREAS: The determined, courageous, and perceptive women who fought for the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution deserve special celebration, especially on the 100th anniversary of its ratification in 2020; and
- WHEREAS: The right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy and the fundamental right upon which all our civil liberties rest; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas became, in 1917, the first state of the old South and the nation's first non-suffrage state to extend primary suffrage to its female citizens; and
- WHEREAS: On June 4th, 1919, the United States Senate approved women's suffrage or the Nineteenth Amendment and sent it to the states for ratification; and
- WHEREAS: On July 28th, 1919, Arkansas became the twelfth state to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment; and
- WHEREAS: On August 26th, 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment was added to the United States Constitution; and
- WHEREAS: The fact that today women are active in all levels of government and are running for office in unprecedented numbers reminds us that we all follow in the footsteps of these resolute American suffragists; and
- WHEREAS: The Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution has played an important role in advancing the rights of all women; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020, as

**THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE AND RATIFICATION OF THE  
NINETEENTH AMENDMENT**

across the State, and I encourage all residents and civic institutions of Arkansas to mark and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, providing for women's suffrage to the Constitution of the United States, in order to honor the role of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in advancing and promoting the core values of our democracy as promised by the Constitution of the United States. I call upon all citizens to reaffirm the vital importance of studying, understanding, and commemorating the efforts of the women's suffrage movement and the role of women in our democracy; to renew our commitment to strengthening democratic participation; and to inspire generations to cherish, exercise, and preserve the rights and responsibilities extended under the Nineteenth Amendment.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, in the year of our Lord 2020.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor