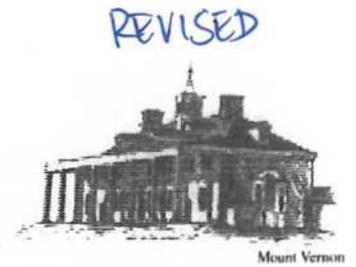




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**Recognize August 26th, 2019 as Women's Suffrage Day in Fairfax County  
Joint Board Matter with Supervisor Dan Storck and Chairman Sharon Bulova  
July 30, 2019**

As we prepare for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's right to vote on August 26, 2020, we want to shine the spotlight on the importance of women's suffrage and the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Women were not included in the Constitution until the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment and the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment led to the largest single one-day increase of potential voters in the history of the United States.

When it comes to women's fight for equality, much of this history resides right here in Fairfax County. Our schoolbooks rarely mention that the suffragist movement lasted 72 years or include the story of the scores of suffragists who were imprisoned at Lorton in 1917 for picketing the White House and demanding the right to vote. These women were arrested, tried, convicted and imprisoned for terms up to seven months. They were tortured, locked in solitary confinement and brutalized. When word leaked out about this unconscionable treatment, President Wilson was forced to ask Congress to consider a Constitutional Amendment.

Twenty-five million women entered the Constitution and secured the right to vote with a stroke of the pen. Absent this fight for citizenship, women would not have been able to advance in education, employment, wealth, civil rights, business ownership and even parental rights! Still there is much work to be done in these areas to improve the lives of women. Suffrage was a full-fledged political reform effort that took five generations of activism and commitment to achieve. The movement had its own philosophers, generals, organizers, foot soldiers, and writers – just as Virginia's modern campaign to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment does, today.

Sadly, though women were written into the Constitution with the right to vote finally in 1920, they still do not have full equality under the law. The Equal Rights Amendment gives women and men full equality under the law. Virginia's General

Assembly came just one vote short this past session and ours is the closest state to making ratification happen for the United States of America.

We give gratitude and honor the efforts of all the grassroots volunteers of VAratifyERA, Virginia's nonpartisan, statewide campaign whose singular mission is to put our Commonwealth on the right side of history and see the Equal Rights Amendment over the finish line. It's time for all of us to work together to see that Virginia makes national history! What a momentous occasion it would be in Fairfax County to celebrate the 38<sup>th</sup> and final state ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment culminating with the centennial celebration of women's suffrage and the groundbreaking of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial in 2020.

The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association is working to build a memorial to women with 19 education stations in Occoquan Regional Park which will be dedicated on the centennial anniversary of the certification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This location is part of the historic DC prison grounds where scores of suffragists aged 19 to 73 were illegally imprisoned. It is here that a critical part of women's history will finally be illuminated so that we can continue to educate, inspire and empower present and future generations to remain vigilant in the quest for liberty, freedom and equality.

Therefore, Madame Chair, I ask, with unanimous consent, that the Board of Supervisors recognize August 26th, 2019 as Women's Suffrage Day to honor the millions of women who fought for more than seven decades to win the right to vote.



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## **Mount Vernon Tourism Placemaking and Marketing Strategy Board Matter July 30, 2019**

As the Board is aware, I launched the Mount Vernon Tourism Task Force in February of this year. The purpose of the task force is to bring together key tourism stakeholders to connect and increase awareness of the vibrant cultural, natural, and heritage resources of the southern portion of Fairfax County.

In a few short months, the Tourism Task Force has made significant progress towards creating connections and collaborations between key locations, preparing for the opening of the Army Museum next year, identifying areas of focus and marketing for the many sites, and quantifying the benefits of increased tourism and visitation to the County's Economic Success Strategic Plan (ESSP).

The Tourism Task Force has identified a number of short and longer term goals that will better market, brand and tie together the 10+ area sites, create experiences (stories) between multiple sites, develop multi-site visit/hospitality/transportation packages and enable greater regional visibility and impact. Visit Fairfax, whose representatives sit on the Tourism Task Force, has extensive experience in this area and has already identified potential consultants to assist in developing this strategy.

Therefore, Madam Chairman, I move that \$100,000 be added as a Consideration Item as part of the *FY 2019 Carryover Review Process* to Visit Fairfax to study, develop, and procure a consultant for a tourism placemaking and marketing strategy, in furtherance of the Mount Vernon Tourism Task Force efforts.

THE  
STATE OF  
NEW YORK

IN SENATE,  
January 10, 1900.

REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE,  
IN ANSWER TO A RESOLUTION PASSED  
BY THE SENATE, APRIL 18, 1899.

ALBANY:  
PUBLISHED BY THE  
J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY,  
1900.

PRINTED AT THE  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS,  
LAND OFFICE, ALBANY.