Senate Concurrent Resolution

Number 5

A. Resolution

Providing for the submission of a proposition to amend the Constitution to include women, defining the qualifications of electors, and providing for an election thereof.

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives, concerning the same:

Section 1. The following amendment to Section 1 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma is hereby proposed:

The Secretary of State is hereby authorized and directed to submit and amendment herein provided to the people for their approval or rejection, as provided by law, at the general election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1920, said proposed amendment being as follows, to wit:

Article III. Suffrage

Section 1. Qualified electors of this State shall be citizens of the United States, citizens of the State, including persons of Indian descent (citizens of the United States) who are over the age of twenty-one years and who have resided in the State one year, on the county, six months, and in the election precinct thirty days next preceding the election at which such elector offers to vote. Provided, that no person adjudged guilty of a felony, subject to such restraints as the legislature may prescribe, nor any person kept in a poorhouse at public expense, except Federal, Confederate, and Spanish-American ex-soldiers or sailors, nor any person in a public pension, nor any idiot or lunatic, shall be entitled to register and vote.
Adopted by the House of Representatives March 16th, 1917

Paul Neabore

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved the 27th day of March 1917

R. L. Williams
Governor of the State of Oklahoma
VOTES FOR WOMEN
Oklahoma Woman Suffrage Association

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HEADQUARTERS, ROOM 423, LEE-HUCKINS
OKLAHOMA CITY, 1918

To the Voters of Oklahoma:

The women of Oklahoma ask the men of our
State to support with their votes the petition for an amendment to
the Constitution, striking out the word "male" in the clause defining
the qualifications for voting.

We ask that women be allowed to vote on equal terms with men
because women need the ballot equally with men for the protection
of their interests, and because it is a conceded fact that the interest
of any class of people can be better protected when possessing
power to protect itself. This is the true application of that
fundamental principle of our government "that governments derive
their just powers from the consent of the governed."

We women of Oklahoma ask our fathers, brothers, husbands and
sons to consider by what right they vote, and where they secured the
power to determine whether a woman shall be clothed with the dignity
and responsibility of citizenship which they enjoy, or whether her
opinions shall remain, to the dishonor of the state, classed baneful
with those of criminals, useless with those of idiots and the insane,
and irresponsible with those of minors.

A woman's title to vote is identical with a man's title to vote.

Men in the United States vote for the simple reason that they live
under a form of government which declares taxation without representation to be tyranny, and that power is derived by consent of the people. In such a government the ballot becomes the symbol through which these principles are expressed. Ask yourselves two questions,—are women taxed? and are women governed? and it becomes apparent that the woman's title to vote in our boasted self-government is identical with that of men. Then, logically, how can any man cast an honest vote to the contrary, and proclaim faith and allegiance to the American principles of government?

We ask your vote in favor of conferring citizenship on the women of our State, since we believe the nation is imperiled because of the trend of all legislation towards commercialism, which necessarily results from the opinions of men alone crystallizing into law. Many evils of vital interest to the life of the nation are demanding that women be granted power to co-operate with me for the best protection of the home and child,—not the least of which questions are those of child-slavery and white slave traffic.

We beg to call your attention to the great changes brought about through inventions. Under a condition termed "modern industrialism" and which has invaded the woman's sphere, "the home," the work of women in the home has been transferred to the mills, factories, stores and offices. So, in turn, the home commodities formerly made under the watchful supervision of the women in the home, are returned from the marts of the world, and the only safeguard from disease and death rests upon the conscientious responsibility of the official whose duty it is to care for the public's interest. It would seem, therefore, self-evident that if women are to be able to protect themselves, and conserve the best interests of the home, they must
be accorded the ballot to help choose these officials.

Recognizing the ballot as the only effective weapon of our
day and generation for the protection of the women of all classes,
we submit a classified list of the women in Oklahoma who need the
ballot, and a few reasons why they need it.

Oklahoma women want to vote, because

1: WOMEN ARE CITIZENS, and they need the ballot to accomplish their
    civic duties.

2: WORKING WOMEN need the ballot to enforce thru a CONSTITUENCY,
    their demands for shorter working hours, equal pay for
    equal work, better sanitary conditions to work under,
    safe-guarded machinery, etc.

3: HOMEMAKERS need the ballot in order to influence the outside
    conditions which today control the home, such as Boards
    of Health, Boards of Education, the food supply, the water
    rates; in short, to influence municipal politics whose
    activities deal almost exclusively with the "woman's sphere."

MOTHERS need the ballot in order to control moral conditions, and
wage effective war upon the powers of evil which revel in
the debauching of youth.

TEACHERS need the ballot to fit them to teach the ideals of citi-
zenship. The state needs their trained intelligence,
because they represent the most valuable public officials
in the employ of the State—"State Mothers," as they have
been justly termed.

PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS WOMEN need the ballot to secure for them-
selves fair opportunities in their respective callings.

THE WOMAN ON THE FARM needs the vote because she is interested in
good roads, good schools, tax levies, and the best condi-
tions for the rural district. She would double the farmer
vote. Two good votes there but one vote now exists.

TAX PAYING WOMEN need the ballot to protect their property interests.

ALL WOMEN need to vote for the sake of their own self-respect, and
in order to command the respect of others. Disfranchisement
means degradation, and no juggling with words nor the utter-
ing of the usual platitudes can alter this interpretation.

ALL MEN need to confer the ballot on women today to justify their
advocacy for a "square deal." Therefore, men of Oklahoma,
in the interest of according the women of our state a
"square deal", we ask you to arm them equally with yourselves
with the weapon of civilization, the Ballot, and
together let us wage war for human betterment, and
vindicate our national principles by giving to the
State of Oklahoma a "government of the people, by
the people and for the people." for women are people.

We close this earnest appeal for your vote by calling to your
attention the conclusion of that earnest student, philosopher and
writer, Charles Kingsley, who said: "The principal cause of the
failure of so many magnificent schemes, social, political, religious,
which have followed each other, age after age, has been this: that
in almost every case they have ignored the rights and powers of one-
half the human race, namely, women."

Respectfully submitted,

Okahoma Woman Suffrage Association.