

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

LAW DAY
MAY 1, 2020

WHEREAS, the United States is commemorating the centennial of the 19th Amendment, passed in 1920, which guaranteed that "the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex"; and

WHEREAS, the text that would become the 19th Amendment was first proposed in Congress in 1878; and many states granted women the right to vote in advance of the ratification of the 19th Amendment and included Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Idaho, Washington, California, Oregon, Montana, Arizona, Kansas, Alaska, Illinois, North Dakota, Indiana, Nebraska, Michigan, Arkansas, New York, South Dakota and Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan were the first states to ratify the 19th Amendment on June 10, 1919, six days after it was approved by Congress; on December 1, 1919, North Dakota became the 20th state to ratify the 19th Amendment; and on August 18, 1920, Tennessee was the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment, the last required to incorporate it into the U.S. Constitution and make it the law of the land; and

WHEREAS, although formal voting rights could no longer be denied because of race or sex after ratification of the 15th and 19th Amendments, many American voters still faced ballot restrictions, including registration rules, literacy tests, poll taxes and moral and residency requirements; and

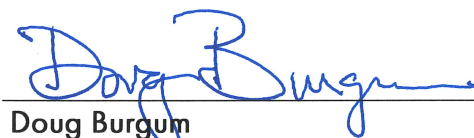
WHEREAS, as of 2018, 81.3 million women registered to vote in the United States, comprising 53 percent of the electorate; and

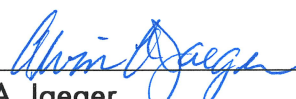
WHEREAS, American women fought for, and won, the vote through their voice and action; the women's suffrage movement forever changed America, expanding representative democracy and inspiring other popular movements for constitutional change and reform; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 Law Day theme is "Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100."

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim
May 1, 2020, LAW DAY in the State of North Dakota.




Doug Burgum
GOVERNOR

ATTEST: 
Alvin A. Jaeger
SECRETARY OF STATE