

## PROCLAMATION

Whereas: The Virginia Women Attorneys Association (VWAA) was founded in 1981 by a visionary group of women attorneys representing a diverse assembly of new and seasoned practitioners; and

Whereas: The mission of the VWAA is to assist women attorneys in developing their professional practice and in achieving their potential, to bring about changes in the law and to affect public policy for the benefit of the women of the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

Whereas: By education and experience the members of the VWAA, both the women members and the male members who support its mission, understand the importance of inclusion of all citizens in the right to vote in political elections; and

Whereas: This right to vote was denied to women citizens in the United States by the United States Constitution ratified in 1788; and

Whereas: Women of color faced additional prejudices in the denial of their right to vote in the United States; and

Whereas: The struggle to win for ALL women the right to vote in all federal and state elections was officially commenced in 1878 with the introduction to Congress of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

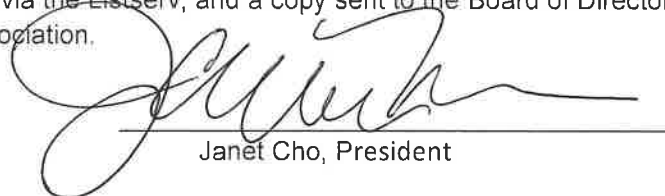
Whereas: Over the next four decades this struggle was led by a brave and diverse group of women and men notably Susan B. Anthony, Alice Stone Blackwell, Henry Blackwell, Carrie Chapman Catt, Sophia Alice Callahan, Fredrick Douglass, Carrie Langston Hughes, Lucretia Mott, Alice Paul, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth, and Adelino Otero-Warren; and

Whereas: The denial of the right for women to vote in political elections was finally ended in the United States with the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution on August 26, 1920; now

Therefore: The Virginia Women Attorneys Association on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment proclaims the gratitude of its members for all those who struggled and sacrificed for woman's suffrage in the United States and pledges to honor their efforts by our own commitment to justice and equal access thereto; and

Furthermore: The Virginia Women Attorneys Association commends the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association for its work in honoring those who fought for seven decades to enfranchise all American women.

APPROVED by unanimous vote by the membership at the organization's Annual Meeting this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June 2020 with direction that a copy of this Proclamation be posted on the Virginia Women Attorneys website, disseminated to all members via the Listserv, and a copy sent to the Board of Directors of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association.



Janet Cho, President