



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY**

**2021**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

## **A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, leaders from across our state and nation, both past and present, have fought for women to have the full rights and privileges, public or private, legal or institutional, that have historically been available to men; and

**WHEREAS**, women across the world have united to advocate for these rights and privileges for all people regardless of sex, race, religion, or socioeconomic status; and

**WHEREAS**, women in the United States have designated August 26, the anniversary date of the certification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, as a symbol of the continued fight for equal rights; and

**WHEREAS**, we also recognize that passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment did not grant voting rights for all women, particularly women of color, and the ongoing fight for voting rights continues today; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, we celebrate the 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage and honor the women who helped pave the way, as well as the women who continue to fight for equal rights and representation; and

**WHEREAS**, equal participation of women in politics and government is integral to building strong communities and a vibrant democracy in which people of all genders can thrive, and to helping eliminate many disparities including systemic racism and sexism; and

**WHEREAS**, Kamala Harris is the first female vice president of the United States, and the number of women in leadership roles across state government agencies has nearly doubled in the last 20 years, with more currently serving than ever before in North Carolina, improving diversity in decision-making roles that impact all North Carolinians; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina women continue to fight for economic equality as well; according to the North Carolina Council for Women and Youth Involvement's Status of Women in North Carolina: Employment and Earnings Report, women comprise 51 percent of our state's population but earn an average of \$8,600 less than men; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Council for Women and Youth Involvement, the League of Women Voters, and many other organizations continue to advocate for the rights of women, providing a voice of influence and guidance on the many issues women regularly face regarding health and wellness, voter participation, violence, education, and employment; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina stands with women across our state and nation and encourages residents to commend and support organizations and activities that advocate for social progress and equality for all;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim August 26, 2021, as the "WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have here unto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-third day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth.