

B 2019 001

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Creating the Women's Vote Centennial Commission

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado, and, in particular, pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of the Colorado Constitution, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order creating the Women's Vote Centennial Commission.

I. Background and Purpose

In 1893, Colorado voters approved a referendum recognizing women's suffrage, making Colorado the first state to enfranchise women by popular vote. More than 25 years later, the United States Congress voted in favor of the 19th Amendment. The 19th Amendment was ratified by Colorado on December 15, 1919, and was declared in effect by U.S. Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby on August 26, 1920.

In 2017, the United States Congress passed the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission Act, which established the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission and encouraged state and local governments to organize and participate in activities commemorating the centennial of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment. Among the states that have organized such activities are Arizona, Arkansas, Massachusetts, New York, and Tennessee.

I am creating the Women's Vote Centennial Commission (the Commission) to educate the public on the history of women's suffrage, to commemorate the centennial of women's suffrage in August 2020, and to elevate the struggle for women's suffrage as a learning opportunity as our society continues to ensure that all persons in the U.S. have equal access to the ballot.

II. Mission and Scope

- A. The Commission shall be housed within History Colorado.
- B. The mission and scope of the Commission shall be to:
 - i. illuminate the contributions of women in Colorado's history;

- ii. provide educational opportunities through the Colorado Department of Education and the state's public libraries that highlight the historical struggle and acknowledge current political realities connected with voting rights;
- iii. create a website to highlight all activities of the Commission;
- iv. plan for a celebration of women's suffrage to be held in August 2020;
- v. coordinate with History Colorado and the Center for Colorado Women's History; and
- vi. consider and plan for a monument or other physical representation of key women in history.

C. The Commission shall complete the objectives set forth in II.B.i.-v. on or before June 30, 2020.

D. The Commission's work on the objective set forth in II.B.vi. shall be completed on or before January 3, 2021.

III. Membership

A. The Commission shall consist of up to twenty five members appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor.

B. The Commission shall have a chair, to be appointed by the Governor, and who shall serve on the Commission until replaced by the Governor.

C. The Commission shall consist of any combination of the following members:

- i. Four former Lieutenant Governors of Colorado;
- ii. The current Lieutenant Governor of Colorado;
- iii. The Lieutenant Governor-elect of Colorado;
- iv. The current Attorney General of Colorado;
- v. A former Attorney General of Colorado;
- vi. Two former Speakers of the House of the Colorado General Assembly;
- vii. The current Speaker of the House of the Colorado General Assembly;
- viii. The Speaker-elect of the House of the Colorado General Assembly;

- ix. The Commissioner of the Colorado Department of Education;
- x. The Chair of the Board of Directors of History Colorado;
- xi. One member of the Colorado State Board of Education;
- xii. The Secretary of State-elect; and
- xiii. Other elected officials or community members active in voter education and advocacy.

D. Member terms of service shall terminate on January 3, 2021.

IV. Staffing and Resources

The staff of History Colorado shall provide support as feasible given existing resources to support the mission and activities of the Commission. Such support shall include allowing the Commission access to relevant research to the extent permitted by law.

The Commission may consult with outside experts, which may include historians, other current and former state elected and appointed officials, education and technology experts, artists, and others as appropriate.

V. Duration

This Executive Order shall remain in effect for twenty-four months from the date of this Executive Order, unless modified or terminated by further Executive Order of the Governor.

GIVEN under my hand and
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado this third day
of January, 2019.

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor