

# THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT: THREE-STATE STRATEGY



## NOW URGES THAT

U.S. Senators co-sponsor and vote "YES" on Senate Joint Resolution 5 to remove the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

U.S. Representatives co-sponsor and vote "YES" on House Joint Resolution 53 to remove the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

## OVERVIEW

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) ensures that gender equity is codified in the United States Constitution. Though passed by Congress in 1972, and ratified by 36 of the 38 States necessary for passage; the deadline for ratification passed in 1982. Senate Joint Resolution 5 and House Joint Resolution 53 seek to enact a new timeline that allows for the ERA to be eligible for ratification. On March 20, 2017, Nevada became the 36th State to ratify the ERA, this underscores momentum on the road to constitutional equality.

## PRECEDENT FOR EXTENDED RATIFICATION PROCESS

In 1992 the 27th Amendment was ratified, more than 203 years after its 1789 passage by Congress. This established a precedent for the three state strategy. If Senate Joint Resolution 5 and House Joint Resolution 53 are passed, the existing 36 state ratifications would still be in effect, and only two additional states would be needed to successfully pass the ERA. With the 36 current states, ERA activists in unratified states continue to clear a path for passage, with a focus on Virginia, Illinois, North Carolina, and Florida. These target-states present strategic opportunities in terms of prior attempts at ratification, political representation, and state legislature party-composition.

## GENDER EQUITY IS WIDELY SUPPORTED IN THE U.S.

An April 2012 poll for Daily Kos and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) found that in the U.S., 91% of individuals believe that men and women should have equal rights affirmed by the Constitution. A 2001 Opinion Research Corporation poll showed that 72% of the respondents mistakenly assume that the United States Constitution already includes such a guarantee.

## AN INCLUSIVE INTERPRETATION OF THE ERA

NOW is committed to advocating for an inclusive and intersectional ERA interpretation that includes equitable access to all aspects of reproductive health care and centers marginalized people, including LGBTQIA individuals, immigrants, women of color, and women with disabilities. We believe the broad language of the 1972 text ("Equality of rights under the law shall not be abridged ... on account of sex.") lends itself to this broad and inclusive interpretation.

The logo for "Ratify the ERA" is a circular emblem with a green border. Inside the circle, the words "RATIFY THE ERA" are written in bold, white, sans-serif capital letters. At the bottom of the circle, there is a small icon of a person with arms raised, and the text "National Action Program" is visible.

**RATIFY  
THE  
ERA**

National Action Program