

## History of the ERA and Illinois

- ✓ 1923 ERA was written by suffragist, Alice Paul.
- ✓ 1970 Illinois includes an equality clause in its state constitution
- ✓ 1972 Passed by Congress and sent to states for ratification
- ✓ 1982 the deadline expires for the Federal ERA with ratification of only 35 of the required 38 states
- ✓ 1997 Article in William and Mary Law Review outlined how the ERA is still legally viable and rightfully in front of the states for ratification
- ✓ 2015 Illinois State Bar Association resolves to support the ERA
- ✓ **2017 Nevada ratifies the Equal Rights Amendment**

### Now:

**The Equal Rights Amendment (SJRCA0004) has been introduced in the IL Senate and has 18 Co-sponsors, with bipartisan support. A vote is expected in the near future.**

**Contact your IL legislators now!**

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### THE TEXT OF THE ERA:

*“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex”*



# Shouldn't “We the People” mean all of us?



It's time to  
**Ratify the  
Equal Rights  
Amendment,  
Illinois!**

**“Certainly, the Constitution does not require discrimination on the basis of sex. The only issue is whether it prohibits it. It doesn't.”** - Justice Scalia, 2010, UC Hastings College of Law

## WHY DO WE NEED IT?

- Ninety years of piecemeal legislation have not brought women equal justice under the law. Only the Equal Rights Amendment can do that.
- The courts currently treat gender discrimination more leniently (“intermediate scrutiny”) than discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, or religion (“strict scrutiny”).
- Without the ERA, it is very difficult for women to pursue prosecution in cases of rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, child-trafficking, forced prostitution, domestic violence, unequal pay, and pregnancy discrimination—all things that strip women of their power.
- Every country that has enacted a constitution since WWII has had an equality clause, even Afghanistan!

## ERA HAS BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

- 94 % of Americans say they would support an amendment to the Constitution guaranteeing equal rights for men and women. Including,
  - ⇒ 97% of Democrats
  - ⇒ 90% of Republicans
  - ⇒ 92% of Independents
- In a 2016 poll, 80% of Americans thought that men and women **ALREADY HAD** equal rights under the US Constitution.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Call your IL Legislators and ask for their support for the ERA (SJCRA0004)
- Watch the documentary “Equal Means Equal” - available on Amazon and iTunes
- Have a letter or postcard writing party to contact your IL legislators
- Talk to everyone you know about it and get the word out
- Sign up for alerts at [www.RatifyERAIL.org](http://www.RatifyERAIL.org)
- Wear a pin, button, or sticker
- Signal boost ERA content on social media
- Go visit your IL legislators. Contact us for help!
- Donate to the cause. Getting the word out takes money. Donate at [www.RatifyERAIL.org](http://www.RatifyERAIL.org)

## ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT THE ERA

- Action for a Better Tomorrow
- Action Illinois
- AFL-CIO
- AFSCME
- American Association of University Women
- American Bar Association
- American Humanist Society
- American Jewish Congress
- Girl Scouts of the USA
- Indivisible Illinois
- Illinois Federation of Business Women’s Clubs
- Illinois State Bar Association
- Junior League
- League of Women Voters
- Lutheran Church
- NAACP
- National Organization for Women
- Older Women’s League
- Sangamon County Democrats
- Sierra Club
- Service Employees International Union
- United Methodist Church

