PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, In 1848, people gathered together in Seneca Falls, New York and cited the unfairness of depriving women of the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, The fight for women's suffrage lasted more than 72 years, with women from all walks of life, political views, and demographic backgrounds asking for the right to voice their opinions at the polls; and

WHEREAS, Iowa women by the thousands advocated for the right to vote and suffragists nationwide pushed for a single constitutional amendment, granting females suffrage on the federal level – dubbed the Susan B. Anthony Amendment; and

WHEREAS, The House of Representatives took a historic vote on May 21, 1919, followed by the Senate on June 4, 1919, and three-fourths of the states needed to ratify the 19th Amendment; and

WHEREAS, Iowa was the 10th state to ratify the 19th Amendment, and Tennessee was the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment making it the law of the land on August 26, 1920 – whereby millions of women were enfranchised; and

WHEREAS, The ratification of the 19th Amendment ensured women could more fully participate in our democracy and fundamentally changed the role of women at a national level in civic activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, T. M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF DES MOINES, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE YEAR OF 2020, AS:

19th AMENDMENT CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION

AND ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO COMMEMORATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE AND RATIFICATION OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT, ENJOY THE FREEDOM OF VOTER PARTICIPATION, CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR VOTING RIGHTS FOR ALL CITIZENS, AND INSPIRE FUTURE GENERATIONS TO CHERISH AND PRESERVE THE HISTORICAL PRECEDENT ESTABLISHED UNDER THE 19TH AMENDMENT.

WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA TO BE AFFIXED THIS TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF FEBRUARY TWO THOUSAND TWENTY.

T. M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, MAYOR
CITY OF DES MOINES