

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



Proclamation

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY 2025

WHEREAS on August 26, 1920, tens of millions of women gained voting rights, the greatest expansion of democracy in U.S. history, yet 105 years later women still have not achieved full equality and face ongoing and increasing threats of discrimination, violence, loss of bodily autonomy, and restrictions on voting rights; and

WHEREAS although on January 27, 2020, Virginia became the final of the requisite 38 states to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, fulfilling all the requirements of the U.S. Constitution, yet the ERA has not been fully recognized and published, allowing gender-based discrimination to continue without recourse under the foundational document undergirding all our laws; and

WHEREAS federal laws ensuring the equal rights and safety of women can be and are currently being weakened or removed, with the U.S. Supreme Court retreating from its own precedent to take away previous constitutional rights, impeding women's ability to make decisions about their own bodies, families and futures, and causing irreparable harm and unnecessary deaths; and

WHEREAS females make up nearly 53 percent of Charlottesville population and the City of Charlottesville has an appropriate and legitimate role in securing and defending gender equality in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Charlottesville City Council that August 26, 2025, is Women's Equality Day in the City of Charlottesville in celebration of all who worked to gain voting rights for women; in recognition of all who have continued the fight for gender equity; and in support of all citizens and lawmakers working today to preserve democracy and guarantee equal rights for all under the law in the Commonwealth of Virginia and in the United States.

Signed and sealed this 18th day of August 2025.

Mayor

Clerk of Council