



Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

Whereas:

August 26, 2020 will mark the 100th Anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution that guarantees all American women the right to vote; and

WHEREAS: Achieving this milestone required a lengthy and difficult struggle; and decades of agitation and protest beginning in the mid-19th century; and

WHEREAS: We honor the perseverance and fortitude of the several generations of woman suffrage supporters who lectured, wrote, marched, lobbied, and practiced civil disobedience to achieve what many Americans considered a radical change; and

WHEREAS: A few of those marches and lectures occurred here in Lima, Ohio, including a march on October 20, 1914. On that day more than 1,500 women, children and a few men, marched up South Main Street to Public Square in a mile-long procession to show their support for women's suffrage ; and

WHEREAS: We honor the women who led this movement, whose stories must not be lost to history. One of those women was Mrs. Bessie Crayton, a Lima resident, local leader of the Suffrage movement, and the first president of the Lima League of Women Voters; and

WHEREAS: Because of her work and the work of others, on June 16, 1919; Ohio became the 5th and one of the original 36 states to ratify the 19th Amendment; and

WHEREAS: American women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and especially the peace movement, thereby creating a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS: Despite these contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in the literature, teaching and study of American history.

NOW THEREFORE: I, David J. Berger, Mayor of the City of Lima, Ohio do hereby proclaim the month of March as:

Women's Suffrage Month

in the City of Lima, Ohio and encourage our citizens to join in observance of both the Centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment and Women's History Month.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Seal of the City of Lima, Ohio, this 1st day of March, 2020.

Handwritten signature of David J. Berger in blue ink.

DAVID J. BERGER, MAYOR
CITY OF LIMA, OHIO

