

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



Did you know that the U.S. Constitution protects race, religion and national origin, but not gender equality?

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY 10 DAYS OF ERA BUS STOP EQUALITY TOUR:**

- When?** Sunday, November 11th
- Where?** George Mason University, starts at IKE'S Eatery Dining Hall, 10445 President's Park Drive
- Time?** 11 AM – 1 PM
- Why?** The VAratifyERA State Campaign will launch "10 Days of ERA," with a statewide bus tour helmed by Delegate Jennifer Carroll Foy (D) and Senator Glen Sturtevant (R). The tour's goal is to educate Virginians about the absence of gender equality in the U.S. Constitution. In addition to lawmakers and community leaders, VIPs will join along the route for programs both scheduled and spontaneous.
- Additional** Following stops at GMU, we will drop by:
- 2 PM:** Liberty BBQ 370 W. Broad Street, Falls Church
- 3:30 PM:** Uncle Julio's 4251 Fairfax Corner Avenue, Fairfax

Our tour kicks off with an Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) law symposium at William & Mary's Marshall Wythe Law School on November 9th and concludes with workshops in Richmond on November 18th. The bus will travel over 1,500 miles with events targeting sixteen Virginia colleges and the communities of Ashland, Blacksburg, Charlottesville, Fairfax, Fredericksburg, Hampton, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Norfolk, Petersburg, Radford, Richmond, Roanoke, Staunton, Virginia Beach, and Woodstock. After a resolution was passed by the American Bar Association in support of the Equal Rights Amendment, two states ratified (Nevada in 2017 and Illinois this past May). This leaves just one state remaining in the 38 required to achieve a three-quarter's majority. All eyes are on Virginia to be the final state during our next General Assembly session. We hope we can count on your participation to help Virginia make history!



**The tour's goal is to educate Virginians about the absence of gender equality in the U.S. Constitution and highlight the bipartisan, statewide support for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).**

In addition to joining us at GMU, there are 4 things you can do to help! **TAKE ACTION** by:

- **Signing the petition to support gender equality at <https://VARatifyERA.org/petition/> and opt in for the campaign updates**
- **We already have the floor votes from both parties in the General Assembly, but you can help by reaching out to Speaker of the House Kirk Cox and Senate Majority Leader Tommy Norment, leading members of the Republican Party. And please ask your Democrat and Republican friends, and everyone else in between, to request these two leaders help Virginia make history and ensure ratification of the ERA:**

Senate Majority Leader Tommy Norment:

Email: [district03@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district03@senate.virginia.gov)

Address: Pocahontas Building, Room No: E603, Senate of Virginia

P. O. Box 396, Richmond, VA 23218

Phone: (804) 698-7503 / Fax: (804) 698-7651

House Speaker Kirk Cox:

Email: [DelKCox@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelKCox@house.virginia.gov)

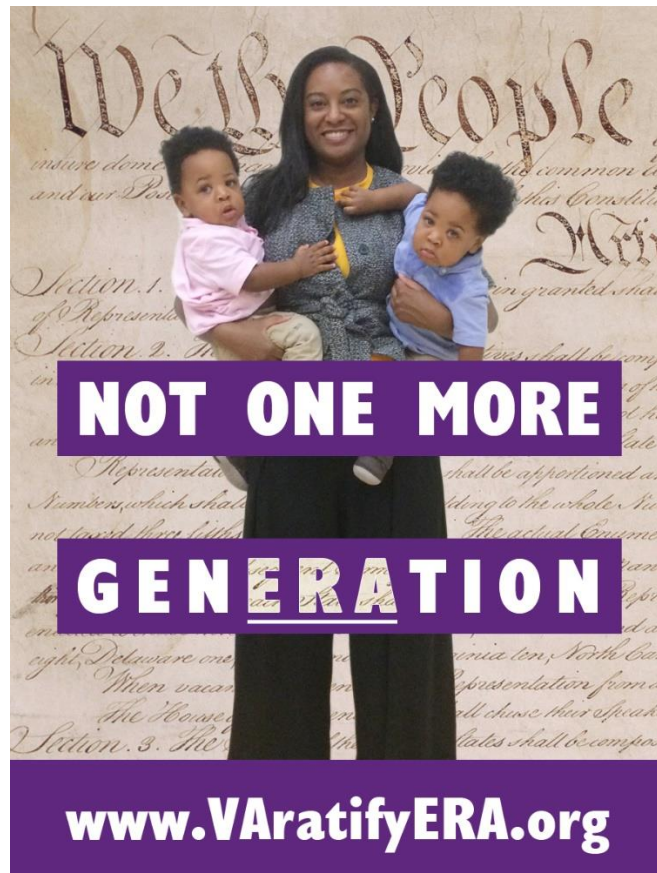
Address: P.O. Box 1205, Colonial Heights, VA 23834

Phone: (804) 526-5135 / (804) 698-1066

- **There will be more on this in the December newsletter, but please consider joining us en masse at the State Capitol in Richmond for the Opening of the General Assembly's 400<sup>th</sup> Session on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Stay tuned for additional opportunities to gather at the State Capitol including for Lobby Days.**
- **Follow us on social media and help create awareness by amplifying our message:**
  - **Twitter: [@VARatifyERA](https://twitter.com/VARatifyERA)**
  - **Instagram: [VARatifyERA](https://www.instagram.com/VARatifyERA)**

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VAratifyERA/>
- Snapchat: VAratifyERA
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/varatifyera/>
- Recommended Hashtags: #ERAINVA, #ERA2019, #VAratifyERA, #38thState, #1Stateto38, #ERANow, #WhyWeNeedTheERA, #VAFearless, #ERA, #EqualRightsAmendment, #ERAYes, #NotOneMoreGenERation
- Find images/graphics for your use: <https://varatifyera.org/social-media/>

For more information, ***please contact Commissioner Lisa Sales, Vice Chairman, Fairfax County Commission for Women via text or phone at (703) 624-0387***, and you are welcome to attend any event along the VAratifyERA campaign trail. The schedule of events can be found ***here***.



(Pictured House Delegate and Public Defender, Jennifer Carroll Foy with her twin boys.)

### **A BRIEF ERA HISTORY LESSON**

**Did you know that the U.S. Constitution protects race, religion and national origin, but not gender equality?** And we are not in good company! Nearly all 193-member states of the United Nations have ratified a bill of rights for women ***promising to end discrimination and fight against violence***. It is the biggest treaty creating specific guarantees for women and girls since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was established in 1948, when the UN said all people, regardless of sex, “are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” ***Sadly, The United States finds itself in the company of Iran, Palau, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Tonga.***

Alice Paul, author of the Equal Rights Amendment, was determined to gain equality for women in America. Through perseverance and determination, including a hunger strike, she and her fellow suffragists forced a change in the U.S. Constitution, with the addition of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, the right to vote. After achieving women's suffrage, Alice turned to the goal of true Constitutional equality for women. By 1923, she and others had drafted an Equal Rights Amendment, and in 1943, she finalized the draft we know today.

In 1972, Congress finally passed the Equal Rights Amendment and set a 7-year ratification deadline, later extended to 10 years. In 1982, 35 states had ratified the ERA, just 3 states short of the required 3/4 of states. Although the deadline passed, the ERA lives on! On March 22, 2017, exactly 45 years after Congress passed the Amendment, Nevada became the 36th state to ratify. On May 30, 2018, Illinois became the 37th. Virginia is well-positioned to be the 38th state. The nation's spotlight is on us! Won't you join us to help **VIRGINIA MAKE HISTORY?!!**



#### **FAST FACTS FOR BUSINESS**

**Signaling a modern economy.** Ratification will show Virginia has exactly the kind of welcoming atmosphere that appeals to large modern companies and their employees.

**Ratification of the ERA is good politics for Virginia** especially now when national attention is focused on women's issues and technology companies are looking to locate in welcoming sites in the Southeast.

**Equal rights benefit businesses and the economy.** As found by McKinsey, Price Waterhouse Coopers, and Deloitte, gender parity increases productivity, net profits, and gross domestic product.

**Growth increases** when talent is incentivized appropriately. Price Waterhouse Coopers estimated gender parity could boost U.S. GDP by as much as \$1.8 trillion by increasing female employment rates. McKinsey found it could add \$12 trillion to global GDP by 2025.

**The nation will benefit from Virginia values.** Because of its historic role drafting individual rights into the first ten Amendments and the value of equal rights in our state constitution, Virginia is a fitting state to take this important Amendment across the finish line.

