

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Be Adopted
Vote:	9 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Berger, Beyers, Esquivel, Freeman, Garrett, Holvey, Wingard, Kotek, Olson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Barnhart
Prepared By:	Cheyenne Ross, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Commemorates centennial of woman suffrage in Oregon and efforts of those who led woman suffrage campaign of 1912.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: This year, 2012, marks one hundred years since Oregon became one of the first states where women could vote. The history of woman suffrage in Oregon is one of perseverance that is uniquely Oregonian. The right was obtained in 1912, after five failed statewide ballot measures and eight years before ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The campaign in Oregon was led by Abigail Scott Duniway who started in 1870 and spent the next 42 years advocating via *The New Northwest* newspaper. The topic enjoyed its first debate in the Oregon Legislature in 1872 and was put to voters the first two times, in 1884 and 1900, by the Legislature. The next three times, in 1906, 1908, and 1910, *citizens* put the issue on the ballot, exercising their newly-established initiative right, but it lost by larger and larger margins.

In 1912, a broad and deep coalition of woman suffrage supporters organized for what would be the final push, including dozens of local suffrage associations, labor groups, the Grange, a group of Chinese American women, men's suffrage associations, and equal suffrage leagues and clubs. On November 5, 1912, Oregon voters amended section 2, Article II of the Oregon Constitution to read "citizen" rather than "white male citizen" when referring to their right to vote.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 204 recognizes those who worked to secure voting rights for women and celebrates the centennial of woman suffrage in Oregon.