

# Senate Concurrent Resolution 204

Sponsored by Senators ROSENBAUM, FERRIOLI; Senators ATKINSON, BATES, BEYER, BOQUIST, BURDICK, COURTNEY, DEVLIN, DINGFELDER, EDWARDS, GEORGE, GIROD, HASS, JOHNSON, KRUSE, MONNES ANDERSON, MONROE, MORSE, OLSEN, PROZANSKI, SHIELDS, STARR, STEINER HAYWARD, TELFER, VERGER, WINTERS, Representatives KOTEK, TOMEI (at the request of Oregon Women's History Consortium and Center for Women, Politics and Policy) (Pre-session filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Commemorates centennial of woman suffrage in Oregon and efforts of those who led woman suffrage campaign of 1912.

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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Whereas the centennial of woman suffrage in Oregon will occur in 2012; and

Whereas the movement for woman suffrage began in Salem and Albany in 1870; and

Whereas organizers established the Oregon State Equal Suffrage Association in 1873; and

Whereas Oregon citizens voted six times on whether women should have the right to vote, more than the citizens of any other state; and

Whereas beginning in 1870 Abigail Scott Duniway took the lead in Oregon's campaign for woman suffrage, continuing her efforts for the next 42 years through constant public engagement, through the publication of *The New Northwest* newspaper and by serving as honorary chair of the Oregon State Equal Suffrage Association in 1912, the same year during which women secured the right to vote; and

Whereas the final woman suffrage campaign in 1912 was led by many great women and men, including Viola M. Coe of the Oregon State Equal Suffrage Association, Hattie Redmond of the Colored Women's Equal Suffrage Association, Josephine Mayer Hirsch of the Portland Equal Suffrage League, Mrs. S.K. Chan of the Chinese American Equal Suffrage Society, Dr. Marie Equi of the College Equal Suffrage League, William M. "Pike" Davis of the Men's Equal Suffrage Club of Multnomah County, Dr. Esther Pohl Lovejoy of the Everybody's Equal Suffrage League, Mrs. E. O. Gardner of the Stenographers' Equal Suffrage League and Grace Watt Ross, Sarah A. Evans and Elizabeth Avery Eggert of the Portland Woman's Club Campaign Committee; and

Whereas woman suffrage advocates organized dozens of local suffrage associations throughout the state in 1912, including the Astoria Women's Equal Suffrage Society, the Ashland Woman's Suffrage Club, the Bend Equal Suffrage League, the Eugene Equal Suffrage League, the Medford Equal Suffrage Club, the Salem Equal Suffrage Club and the Pendleton Woman Suffrage League and Men's Auxiliary; and

Whereas the members of the Oregon State Grange and the Oregon State Federation of Labor endorsed woman suffrage in 1912; and

Whereas Oregon voters, on November 5, 1912, approved amending section 2, Article II of the Oregon Constitution, to read "citizen" instead of "white male citizen" when describing the right to vote; and

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1       Whereas not all Oregon women were considered citizens in 1912, leaving the voting status of  
2 some Native American women and first-generation Asian American women unchanged by the 1912  
3 amendment and leaving the right to vote for those women to be secured by federal legislation in  
4 1924 and 1952; and

5       Whereas woman suffrage was one of the earliest uses of Oregon's initiative and referendum  
6 process; and

7       Whereas the 1912 amendment immediately took effect after November 5, 1912, and Oregon  
8 women voted as early as December 1912, in city elections; and

9       Whereas Oregon women campaigned to be elected in some of these same city elections in De-  
10 cember 1912, and in statewide offices in the next statewide election in 1914; and

11       Whereas Marian B. Towne, a Democrat in Jackson County, and Kathryn Clarke, a Republican  
12 in Douglas County, won their respective campaigns to be elected to the 1915 Oregon Legislative  
13 Assembly, the first Legislative Assembly in which women legally could hold such office; and

14       Whereas Oregon women have continued to claim civic equality by holding office, serving as ju-  
15 rors and performing other aspects of full citizenship during the years following 1912; and

16       Whereas Oregon women participated in the national effort to amend the United States Consti-  
17 tution to secure voting rights for women; and

18       Whereas such efforts resulted in the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United  
19 States Constitution in August 1920; and

20       Whereas the 42-year campaign to achieve woman suffrage in Oregon is a vital part of the history  
21 of this state; now, therefore,

22 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

23       That we, the members of the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly, commemorate the centennial  
24 of woman suffrage in Oregon and the efforts of the many great women and men who led the woman  
25 suffrage campaign of 1912.

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