

Press Advisory

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Subject: Columbia Law School's ERA Project and VoteEqualityUS announce publication of a “revised” Pocket Constitution project with the Equal Rights Amendment included as the 28th Amendment.

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Today the [Equal Rights Amendment \(ERA\) Project](#) at Columbia Law School and [VoteEqualityUS](#) released a new pocket Constitution of the U.S. containing the Equal Rights Amendment (“ERA”) as the 28th Amendment. This collaboration invites everyone to imagine the impact of sex equality enshrined in the most supreme document of our country and pays tribute to the efforts of women and allies to add explicit sex equality in the Constitution since it was first drafted.

The ERA Project is proud to contribute an introduction to the Pocket Constitution. This feminist edition of our constitution includes the Declaration of Sentiments signed in 1848 at the First Women’s Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York. The powerful floor speeches of Virginia Senator Jennifer McClellan and Virginia Delegate Danica A. Roem in support of the ERA marks the moment when Virginia became the 38th and final state needed to ratify the ERA. While challenges to the final ratification of the ERA is currently being deliberated in federal court and in Congress, it is important to acknowledge that all the Constitutional requirements under Article V have been met.

“Our Constitution, when written, purposefully excluded the majority of Americans. Since then, updates have brought us closer to equality for all, but we still lack gender equality in our founding document. The residual impact of this historical exclusion has never been clearer than in past months. We urgently need constitutional gender equality. All needs to mean all,” said Kati Hornung, Director, VoteEqualityUS.

“The ERA has the potential to inaugurate a society-wide effort to repair systemic sex-based inequality and dismantle structural gender discrimination, far beyond what the 14th Amendment has accomplished,” Professor Katherine Franke, Founding Faculty Director of the ERA Project. “Adding the ERA to the U.S. Constitution makes sex-based equality part of our

country’s DNA, just like right to free speech, due process, and religious liberty.”

“The United States is the only modern democracy that does not have explicit sex equality protections in its constitution. Having an ERA enshrined in the Constitution will inspire a new generation of leaders to revisit and modernize the constitutional ideal of equality for all, rather than settling for a broken system,” said Ting Ting Cheng, Director of the ERA Project.

Liza Mickens, great granddaughter of the icon Maggie Walker, initially became an advocate for constitutional equality to lift up the untold stories of her great grandmother and many other African-American women in the suffrage centennial. Now, as spokesperson for VoteEqualityUS, Mickens continues her family’s legacy. “It’s important to dismantle the barriers to equality, to establish a more equal and just society. Through the Equal Rights Amendment, we can begin to live up our nations’ creed of liberty and justice for all,” said Mickens.

An advance reader copy is available at mprint.pub/ARC.

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The ERA Project at Columbia Law School’s Center for Gender and Sexuality Law is a law and policy think tank established in January 2021 to develop academically rigorous research, policy papers, expert guidance, and strategic leadership on the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the U.S. Constitution, and on the role of the ERA in advancing the larger cause of gender-based justice. The ERA Project does not engage in lobbying, but instead develops academic, legal and policy expertise to support efforts to expand protections for gender-based equality and justice.

VoteEqualityUS is a nonpartisan grassroots effort promoting equal rights for all Americans. Our vision is to ensure the fully-ratified 28th Amendment (Equal Rights) is enshrined in the U.S. Constitution so our country is one step closer to delivering on the promise of liberty and justice for all.