

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Robert M. Weygandt, Supervisor, District 2
Thomas M. Miller, County Executive Officer

DATE: March 22, 2011

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION – Present a Resolution recognizing March as National Women’s History Month and to honor the 100th Anniversary of the passage of the Women’s Suffrage amendment to the California Constitution.

ACTION REQUESTED

Present a Resolution recognizing March as National Women’s History Month and to honor the 100th Anniversary of the passage of the Women’s Suffrage amendment to the California Constitution.

BACKGROUND

On October 10, 1911, California became the sixth state to extend the right to vote to women in the state. This Resolution is in honor of the 100th anniversary of this historic event. It also recognizes March as National Women’s History month.

The intensive eight-month campaign leading up to the Proposition 4 vote in California evolved from a decade long effort to end woman suffrage. The campaign incorporated the latest in advertising and publicity techniques to gain support for the cause including electric signs, automobile tours, giant billboards, open-air speeches, leaflets in five languages and colorful city-wide displays as means of outreach to male voters that would ultimately determine the fate of their efforts.

The men in rural areas such as Placer County responded to the call to give women political liberty in greater numbers than their urban counterparts resulting in passage of the amendment by less than 1% of the votes cast.

Placer County is proud to acknowledge and support the contributions of women Nationally and state-wide through passage of this Resolution.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

In the matter of a Resolution recognizing March
as National Women's History Month and to honor
the 100th Anniversary of the passage of the Women's
Suffrage amendment to the California Constitution.

Resolution No. 2011-

WHEREAS, the women of California won the right to vote after a decade-long effort culminating on October 10, 1911, when a majority of California men voted in favor of political equality and passed the women's suffrage amendment to the state Constitution; and

WHEREAS, while passage of the women's suffrage amendment ultimately required support from men in all corners of the state, the hard fought battle to liberate California women was secured by farmers, business and working men living in small towns and rural areas such as Placer County who responded to the call to give women political liberty by voting in favor of the amendment over their urban counterparts; and

WHEREAS, the innovative California campaign utilized the talents and abilities of all supporters to divide up the state and responsibilities required to garnish the support needed to pass the amendment. This approach broke new creative ground in promoting Votes for Women by incorporating the latest in advertising and publicity techniques including electric signs, automobile tours, giant billboards, open-air speeches, leaflets in five languages, colorful city-wide displays and countless other new means of outreach; and

WHEREAS, the intensive eight-month campaign won the support of editors, teachers, ministers, the governor and Legislature, and finally a majority of the state's male voters; and

WHEREAS, the amendment, initially thought to be defeated, triumphed after delayed returns from rural areas swung the election in the women's favor, passing by less than 1% of the vote, 125,037 to 121,450, an average margin of one in every voting precinct in the state; and

WHEREAS, California was the sixth state in the nation to approve political equality, passing woman suffrage nine years before the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified; and

WHEREAS, in 1912, the first year after women won the right to vote in California, there were 2,321 women in Placer County registered to vote representing 35% of 6,572 total registered voters; and

WHEREAS, the victory in California doubled the number of women in the United States who could vote offering new hope to supporters throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, the intensive statewide campaign in small towns and rural areas calling for "Justice for California Women" proved to be an inspiration to supporters around the world and helped encourage woman suffrage in other states; and

WHEREAS, to the credit of the state and California women voters, the women immediately used their new power responsibly and formed civic leagues and associations for the betterment of California which still have influence today; and

WHEREAS, this successful, historic effort by courageous and resolute citizens of all races and origins dedicated to the ideal of true democracy is cause for celebration and recognition for its rightful place in shaping the history of our state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer, on behalf of the citizens of Placer County, acknowledge March as National Women's History Month and October 10, 2011 as the 100th Anniversary of Woman Suffrage in California with encouragement for all Californians to join in this observance, via celebration, education and promotion in honor of the right to vote for men and women all over the nation.

Robert M. Weygandt, Supervisor, District 2
Chairman 2011

Jack Duran
Supervisor, District 1

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Supervisor, District 4

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Supervisor, District 5