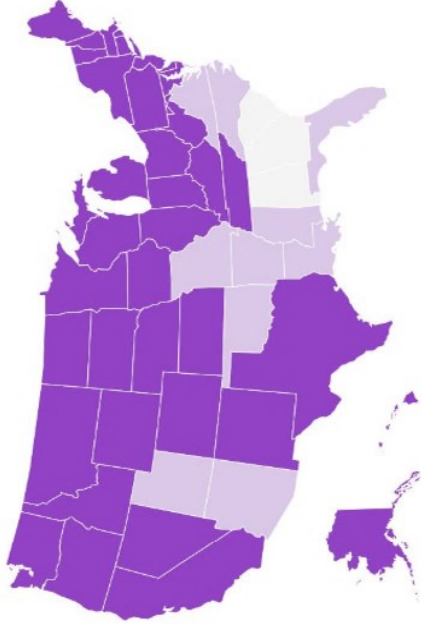


Equal By Law

Why the Equal Rights Amendment after all this time?

Illinois and Nevada are part of a "three state strategy" to add gender to the US Constitution. Nevada ratified March 2017, and Illinois in May 2018. Meanwhile, states like Maine and Minnesota seek to add a "little ERA" in their state Constitution.

But state laws and federal protections are, of course, different. We need both. The ERA would benefit all genders in the areas such as employment and criminal justice.

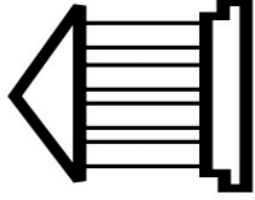


37 states have ratified the Equal Rights Amendment as of 2018. Nevada and Illinois being the most recent. 10 more states have introduced legislation since 2010.

Source: www.ERAllinois.org

80%

Americans think the Constitution guarantees equality to both men and women



0%

U.S. Supreme Court Justices who agree

SOURCE: abas poll conducted in October 2015, available at www.eracoalition.org/files/ERA_Polling_Press_Release.pdf

Three State Strategy

One more state ratifies for a total of 38

+

=

Congress removes the deadline



Article V describes how to amend the U.S. Constitution. Congress passes a joint resolution by 2/3s vote. Then 3/4s of the states must vote to ratify the resolution. The documents are certified by the Federal Register and held until there are 38.

Time is never mentioned in Article V, but deadlines became customary in the last century. For the ERA, the deadline is in the proposing clause, instead of the body of the Amendment. Therefore, Congress retained its authority to change the deadline, and already did so once in 1978.

Source: "The Proposed Equal Rights Amendment: Contemporary Ratification Issues" by Thomas H. Neale Congressional Research Services (CRS) report published July 23, 2017

The text is pretty simple:

Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.



www.eraillinois.org