



The Equal Rights Amendment (SJRC 4):

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

The U.S. Constitution currently does not guarantee equal rights for women.

There is nothing in the Constitution that prohibits the government from rolling back women’s rights. The Fourteenth Amendment provides *some* protection against sex discrimination, but not as much as it does for discrimination based on race or national origin. The ERA would fill that gap.

Ratifying the ERA would reflect values of equality and fairness, which run deep in Illinois.

Illinois gave women the right to vote in 1913—years before the federal government—and it has guaranteed equal rights for women in its own constitution since 1970.

Equality is important for families and for our economy in this State. Our daughters and their daughters deserve to have the same rights and opportunities as our sons. Also, another failure to ratify could make this State less attractive to companies deciding where to locate factories and headquarters. Companies across the spectrum increasingly recognize the important role played by women.

The absence of equal rights from the Constitution impairs our reputation in the world.

The United States cannot serve as a beacon for individual rights, liberty, and human dignity if its own Constitution would allow state-sponsored discrimination against half of its citizens based on their sex.

A state constitution cannot apply to the President or the rest of the federal government.

The Illinois Constitution’s equal rights guarantee cannot protect Illinois women from discrimination by the federal government—for example, if the federal government enacts discriminatory laws, allows bias to infect law enforcement decisions, or denies Illinois women an equal opportunity to serve their Nation in the military and advance through the ranks. Only a federal ERA can do that.

The federal government should be required to provide the same respect for equality

that the Illinois Constitution already guarantees within this State.

The talking points offered by opponents of the ERA are based on misinformation.

The Illinois Constitution has guaranteed equal rights based on sex for nearly 50 years. This has not had any of the negative effects that ERA opponents are warning against. A federal ERA would not either.

The time has finally come for the ERA, which was first proposed nearly 100 years ago.

Congress passed the ERA in the 1970s. As of today, 36 of the necessary 38 states have ratified it. ***Illinois could become the 37th.*** One additional state ratification would set the stage for the final steps in Washington that would make the ERA part of the U.S. Constitution.

PLEASE VOTE YES ON SJRC 4 – THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT