



Proclamation



VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

WHEREAS, National Voter Registration Day is an unofficial national holiday first observed in 2012, held yearly on the fourth Tuesday of September; and

WHEREAS, voting is one of the most effective ways people can make their voices heard; and

WHEREAS, eligibility to vote in the United States is established through the United States Constitution and state law; and those who are able to register to vote should take this opportunity to participate in government, as voting is the heart of participatory democracy; and

WHEREAS, while white males had the right to vote in the United States since the nation's inception, African Americans had to fight for the right to vote; after the Civil War, the Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ("The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude"), ratified in 1870, affirmed that African Americans had the constitutional right to vote, but necessary work continued through the court system and the U.S. Congress to retain this right by striking down Jim Crow laws, literacy tests, and passage of the Voting Rights Act; and

WHEREAS, women had to fight for the right to vote as well; the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ("The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex"), ratified in 1920, affirmed that women had the constitutional right to vote; and

WHEREAS, the Twenty-Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ("The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age"), ratified in 1971, lowered the age of voting nationwide to 18; and

WHEREAS, many disenfranchised persons in the United States still lack the right to vote in certain elections, including those who are homeless, those in prison, those who have certain disabilities, those who are underdocumented, those who live in the District of Columbia, and others; and

WHEREAS, to vote, a person must be a U.S. citizen, and at least 18 years of age by the date of the November 5, 2019 general election; and

WHEREAS, elections have a critical impact on residents of Carrboro, as well as the entire state of North Carolina; and increased participation of all voters, including those that are newly eligible, will significantly impact the future of our democracy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, hereby proclaim September 24, 2019 as Voter Registration Day in the Town of Carrboro. I urge all those not yet registered to vote to register themselves to vote, and I encourage everyone to urge their friends and family members who are not yet registered to vote to do so.



Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor