

Why Support the Equal Rights Amendment?

Equality for all is the right thing to do

Equality of rights, regardless of sex, is a fundamental human right that belongs in the Constitution. Indeed, 84% of international constitutions already include such a statement.

The Equal Rights Amendment was first supported by the Republican Party and is consistent with the **Virginia Republican Creed**, which states: “We believe . . . all individuals are entitled to equal rights . . .”

Virginia Republican Creed

We Believe

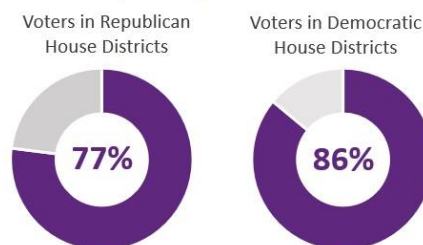
That all individuals are entitled to equal rights, justice, and opportunities and should assume their responsibilities as citizens in a free society

Overwhelming public support for ratification

Today, most Americans believe that equality of the sexes belongs in the Constitution. The American Bar Association supports ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

According to a 2018 poll by the Wason Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University, over 80% of Virginia voters believe the General Assembly should ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. This issue achieved greater support than any other issue polled for the 2019 General Assembly session, including tax cuts (75% support).

Virginian Voters Support Ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment



Source: Wason Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University

Consistency of judicial standards

Courts impose one standard to test the constitutionality of government classification on the basis of race or national origin and a different one to sex. They do so because the Constitution does not prohibit sex discrimination. If the Equal Rights Amendment is added to the Constitution, then the Constitution will prohibit sex discrimination. With that addition, sex becomes a proscribed classification like race and national origin. Courts will test the constitutionality of government classifications on the basis of sex with the same high standard they apply to these other classifications.