

Equal Rights Amendment - ERA (1972- 2020)

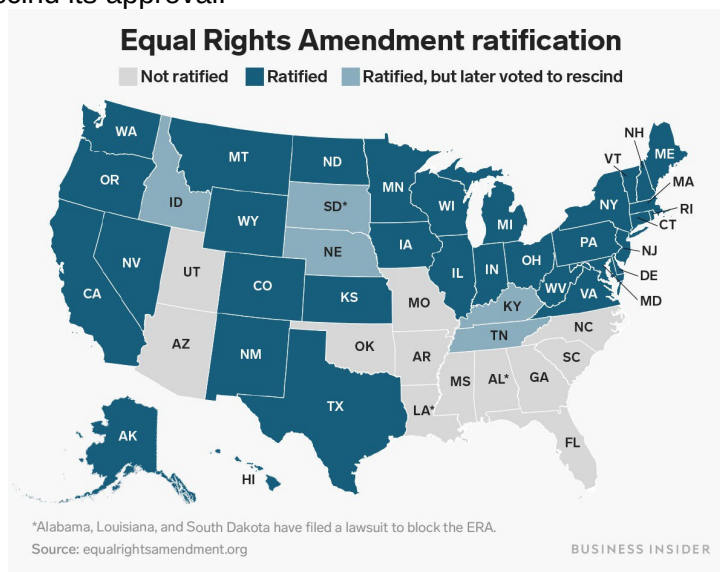
In order to achieve equality for women across the country, women's organizations developed and proposed the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution. The language of the Constitutional Amendment is as follows:

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.

On March 22, 1972, the ERA passed the US Senate and the House of Representatives by the required two-thirds majority and was sent to the states for ratification. An original seven-year deadline was later extended by Congress to June 30, 1982. When this deadline expired, only 35 of the necessary 38 states (the constitutionally required three-fourths) had ratified the ERA. It is therefore not yet a part of the U.S. Constitution. The Equal Rights Amendment has been reintroduced in every session of Congress since 1982. In a significant breakthrough, on March 22, 2017, 45 years to the day after Congress passed the amendment and sent it to the states for ratification, Nevada became the 36th state to ratify the ERA. In the meantime, five states that voted for the ERA originally, have voted to rescind their ratification. There is a legal disagreement on whether or not a state that has once voted to approve an amendment to the Constitution can rescind its approval.



Women, from the bottom up across the country continue to work toward approval of the Equal Rights Amendment. Subsequent to the movement to pass the ERA at the national level, many states and local government adopted and implemented laws which supported equal rights and opportunities for women.