



PROCLAMATION

Women's Equality Day 2026

WHEREAS, Women's Equality Day is celebrated annually on August 26 to commemorate the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1920, which prohibited states from depriving citizens of the right to vote based on gender; and

WHEREAS, women of color fought for the right to vote for another four decades until the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965; and

WHEREAS, recognizing Women's Equality Day as a day of celebration emphasizes the importance of women's work for democracy and calls attention to women's continuing efforts toward full equality; and

WHEREAS, Hillsborough benefits from the leadership and representation of women who embody gender equality, including the Honorable Jennifer Weaver, the first woman Mayor of Hillsborough from 2019 to 2023; Commissioner Evelyn Lloyd, the longest-serving woman on the Hillsborough Board of Commissioners at 34+ years and newest Hillsborough Commissioner Meaghun Darab; Commissioner Phyllis Portie-Ascott, Orange County Board of Commissioners, District 2; Wendy Padilla, first Hispanic female member of the Orange County Board of Education; Congresswoman Valerie Foushee of North Carolina Congressional District 4; and Representative Renee Price of North Carolina General Assembly District 50; and

WHEREAS, Hillsborough is home to the Northern Orange Branch of the NAACP, an organization devoted to ending racial discrimination and which joins in a statewide effort to honor and acknowledge women annually, and as an organization has been led by numerous women leaders from our community; and

WHEREAS, Hillsborough honors organizations like the League of Women Voters, serving the people of Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties, that work to protect and expand voting rights and defend democracy through advocacy, education, and litigation, at the local, state and national levels; and

WHEREAS, Hillsborough is committed to advancing gender equity and protecting women's rights and to making equity and inclusion a reality in the town's policies and procedures and throughout the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Bell, mayor of the Town of Hillsborough, do hereby proclaim Aug. 26, 2026, as Women's Equality Day in the Town of Hillsborough.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal of the Town of Hillsborough to be affixed this 24th day of August in the year 2026.

Mark Bell, Mayor
Town of Hillsborough