



City of Mercer Island, Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways and served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement;

WHEREAS, in our current moment of crisis, women continue to lead. From vaccine researchers to public health officials to the countless heroines on the frontlines, women are working around the clock to defeat COVID-19. Women, and particularly women of color, also make up the majority of America's essential workers, including educators and childcare providers, grocery store workers, farmworkers, and others who are keeping our families, our communities, and our country afloat;

WHEREAS, many of the women's suffrage centennial celebrations originally scheduled for 2020 were curtailed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the National Women's History Alliance is extending the annual theme for 2021 to "**Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to be Silenced**," celebrating the women who fought for a woman's right to vote in the United States and who have continued the struggle (fighting against poll taxes, literacy tests, voter roll purges, and other more contemporary forms of voter suppression) to ensure voting rights for all;

WHEREAS, this year marks a historic milestone for women's leadership with the inauguration of Kamala Harris as the first woman and woman of color as Vice President of the United States;

WHEREAS, the 2021 International Women's Day campaign theme, **#ChooseToChallenge** believes a challenged world is an alert world and encourages all to challenge and call out gender bias and inequality and seek out women's achievements;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Benson Wong, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, do hereby proclaim March 2021 as

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

in the City of Mercer Island and urge all Islanders to take the opportunity to empower women in all settings, rural and urban, and celebrate the activists who are working relentlessly to claim women's rights and realize their full potential.

APPROVED, this 16th day of March 2021



Mayor Benson Wong