

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) says,

"Equality under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." (Proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution)

ERA wording refers to "sex" purely as a noun.

The ISSUE is EQUALITY, America's finest principle

Upfront and in writing, Florida citizens and officials say ...

GO, ERA

Funded outsiders try to disrupt the People's Will and Misplead Legislators

But Florida can Think for Itself

Clearly, the Florida People want the ERA ratified.

Stand firm for the simple moral American Value of Equality

YOU can Make History --Tell your Florida senator and representative, "I want you to cosponsor and vote for the ERA bill. Florida should LEAD." As their constituent, you are their VIP, their "employer". Make your appointments now. When ERA gets heard, IT WILL PASS. Ask for it get Referred to Committee and Put on Agenda.



Don't Be Fooled by Special Interests

THE FACTS ARE THESE: ERA is **NOT** “dead” (State v. Freeman, Oct. 4, 1982); **NOT** a special entitlement; **NOT** frivolous; **NOT** a conspiracy; **NOT** about abortion/same-sex; **NOT** entangled in imaginary “unintended consequences”. Certainly ERA is **NOT** about turning our teenagers into prostitutes, etc., as silly Special Interests say to try to horrify you. But Florida and its legislators are smarter than that. Thirty-five other states have vetted the ERA and ratified it by majority vote 30 YEARS AGO; why go on a witch hunt?

📖 **THE ERA IS BACKED BY WISE OFFICIALS and the PEOPLE OF FLORIDA**

By 1982, the Florida State Legislature had barely missed by a few votes ratifying the Federally-approved Equal Rights Amendment. All 35 states remain ratified for passage into the Constitution (Article V, U.S. Constitution). In fact, states are beginning to RE-ratify the Federal ERA to show strength of convictions for equality. Substantive legal opinion by such respected sources as Congressional Research Services say that just leaves 3 more states remaining, and that ERA is still “viable and contemporaneous”. Florida could make history by ratifying the ERA now.

- In 1998, Florida 66.3% of citizens voted YES to pass equal rights “for female and male alike” into our state constitution, a fact the anti-ERA groups won’t tell you. They mislead by quoting a negative vote 20 years prior.
- Asked recently, more than 294 000 Floridians endorsed Florida’s ratification.
- Thousands of Florida petition signers and 268 organizations endorse it--from American Association of University Women, Chambers of Commerce, churches, to the YWCA. So do 7 Florida newspapers. So do all of Florida’s County Commissions.
- By independent national study, Opinion Research Corporation of Princeton has determined statistically that 88% of the people now state they want equal treatment of the sexes written into the U.S. Constitution.
- 49 Florida legislators of all Parties and both sexes, all religions and ethnicities have co-sponsored the ERA bills.

Clearly, The People want the ERA ratified.

Equal Rights Alliance is a grassroots, mainstream, single-issue, nonpartisan, nonprofit, nonsexist, all-religion, all-ethnicities organization throughout Florida, from Pensacola to Key West. *Ask the unAmerican special interest groups with silly lies against the ERA who it is that really sponsors them.

📖 **A U.S. CONSTITUTION FOR MEN ONLY ?**

A Constitution is the nation’s contract with its citizens. When our Constitution was created, white males were the only citizens. Women were not considered citizens, were possessions of men (called “chattel”), and slavery was ignored. Male pronouns or “citizens” were used exclusively throughout. Women are excluded from this written contract, and it matters enormously in today’s society, elsewhere and in the courts (strict scrutiny is denied). As everyone knows,

without a contract, it is very hard to prove one's rights. Neither laws, the 14th Amendment, nor Florida's constitution guarantee equality of the sexes. The right to vote is women's only incontestable right in the Constitution. Often ignored, men need a guarantee of equal rights, too. ERA wording clearly intends to provide equal treatment of both genders.

Every Constitutional amendment ever passed has been tested by the courts. That is no reason to deny men and women equal treatment by refusing to ratify the ERA. Unlike sex discrimination, discrimination by race, religion or national origin are already prohibited. Equality of the sexes wording for both men and women--would complete and bring the Constitution into the 21st century, un-muddling it for the courts. Updating the Constitution only makes it more relevant, bolstering weak laws for equal pay, etc. ERA does not make new laws.

ERA IS SINGLE-ISSUE: Equality for all regardless of whether male or female

By court decisions ERA is without direct association with reproduction or same-sex anything. Florida statutes already prohibit same-sex marriage. State ERAs have not increased numbers of pregnancy terminations. In fact, most of the 22 States with an ERA do not choose to fund them.

Special interests won't tell you that ERA benefits men as well as women. They won't mention that men also desperately need equal treatment before the courts in sex discrimination cases, for fair child custody, in criminal proceedings, children's immigration, for equal and just sentencing; and in the media.

Areas where equality has become the standard, *matrimonial harmony is enhanced; *pregnancy terminations and divorce rates decline; *family incomes increase an average of \$4205 per year; *communities stabilize and *economies grow. ERA is a win-win for everybody, especially for The Family and Family Values.

Florida need not be afraid of updating the Constitution to guarantee equality. Every entity since WWII has an ERA in writing. Why hold almost 75% of the nation hostage to special interests trying to bully the rest of us?

Equality is a Cornerstone of America

SEPARATION OF POWERS

States' Rights was once a code for racial hatred. It is trotted out again by Special Interests to make believe that somehow a fairly determined Federal amendment would infringe on the rights of states to discriminate. What state would want to go on record as seeking to discriminate, to perpetuate sexual violence or second-class treatment of citizens in the courts and elsewhere? No, Section 2 of the ERA simply reminds us that Congress is the body properly assigned to legislate the equality provision. With wording common to many other Constitutional amendments, ERA does not infringe on the rights of states. It is simply wrong to pretend that ERA denies the People of America the freedom to have Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts groups, or privacy in prisons, hospitals, schools or fraternities and sororities or clubs.

As they well know, the Federal ERA cannot dictate to individual states what their funds will or will not cover in schools. Medical procedures are not required by the Constitutional ERA. The decision in the State of New Mexico's case so falsely put forth by Special Interests merely returned that state's previous right to select what medically-necessary health care the state would cover in certain cases.

📖 THE MILITARY

Women could always have been drafted, even without an ERA. It is insulting to say that women are unpatriotic and would avoid service. They have always volunteered to protect their country as their patriotic duty. Remember Molly Pitcher in the American Revolution. Remember the brave WASPs in WWII who flew airplanes trailing targets for firing practice by servicemen. Nurses were all but drafted in WWII as WAVES. All had to pay their own way home again, and few received medical benefits. Servicewomen and men now often find themselves in combat as there are no actual battle lines. The irony is, today's American servicewomen have fought bravely to bring what they do not yet have themselves (ERA) to the Iraq and Afghanistan Constitutions. At least THEY have a contract for equality in writing.

📖 Neither LAWS, ACTS, nor FLORIDA'S CONSTITUTION, nor the 14th AMENDMENT to the Constitution, NONE of them GUARANTEE MALES AND FEMALES EQUAL TREATMENT under the law IN PERPETUITY like the ERA does. Example: If the Pay Equity Act of the 1960s were actually enforced, Florida women would not still be paid salaries averaging only 72% of male colleagues for the same job, same experience level, same skills.

Despite dreadful pressure groups' wrongful claims, Title IX is equitable. It applies to both men's and women's sports. It is not for, nor against, any sport. It merely acts to level the playing field for men and women on the field and in the classroom. Rather than "punishing men", women's visibility on playing fields has increased gate revenues for many sports in general. Theirs are dangerous arguments. They force adversarial relations upon men and women in a historic time crying out for unity.

Repeating stale phrases and already-recanted silly statements against equality does not make them true. Through modern lenses, their still-dire predictions from the 1970s by radical anti-women groups look ridiculous, making their followers look ridiculous, too. Trying to stop the ERA is a useless project. A now-wiser public recognizes that if America were to block equality, it could continue to divide us. It could weaken the Constitution itself. Unacceptable.

When the ERA barely missed passing in 1982, **it was never declared dead**. Nationwide, ERA is now a live movement in 24 states with ratification bills filed in several states. **Florida's ERA WILL pass when it gets heard.**

FLORIDA IS WAY PAST READY FOR ERA RATIFICATION

Help Florida Go ERA ! YOU can make the difference. We need you.

Ask your senator, representative to Please COSPONSOR and VOTE FOR Florida's ERA BILLS. Donate to ERA Inc: PO Box 59023, St Petersburg FL 33708

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