

# City of Johnson City Tennessee

## Mayoral Proclamation

### Whereas

almost exactly 100 years ago, legislator Harry Burn changed his vote for Women's Suffrage on August 18, 1920 and Tennessee became the "Perfect 36" as the final necessary state for the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment; and

### Whereas

in the early 1900's, Johnson City was a central hub of Suffrage activism and an integral part of a national movement for women's enfranchisement, hosting a state convention of the Tennessee Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage at 113 Spring Street on February 15, 1917; and

### Whereas

on October 7, 1916 Mary Eliza Shaut White led a parade supporting Women's Suffrage through downtown Johnson City ending in a pro-suffrage rally, having been inspired by the 1913 Washington, DC and 1915 Nashville Suffragist parades; and

### Whereas

voting rights legislation has continued throughout the years since 1920 given that the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment did not grant all U.S. citizens the right to vote; and

### Whereas

the Centennial Suffrage Celebration Coalition of Johnson City has commissioned Ellen Elmes, mural artist, to place a mural honoring Women's Suffrage and the "Passing of the Torch" for voting rights to other marginalized citizens in downtown Johnson City; and

### Whereas

the mural will be presented to the City of Johnson City and Washington County on October 10, 2020 commemorating the October 7, 1916 parade and the efforts of local suffragists; and

### Whereas

on October 3, 2019, a proclamation was presented to the City of Johnson City proclaiming August 18, 2019 – August 18, 2020 as the Women's Suffrage Centennial Celebration.

**Now, Therefore, I,** Jenny L. Brock, Mayor of the City of Johnson City, Tennessee, do hereby recognize

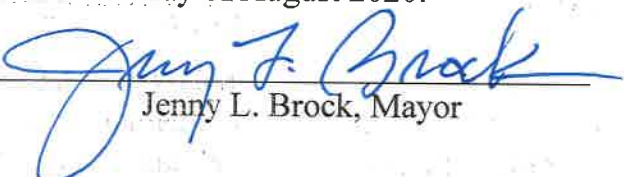
### **the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

and invite all citizens to honor the legacy of local Suffragists led by Mary Eliza Shaut White, whose activism supported the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. On October 10, 2020, at 2:30 in the afternoon, the City of Johnson City will gratefully accept the gift of the mural "Passing the Torch" from the Centennial Suffrage Celebration Coalition of Johnson City, Bravissima! Women Sponsoring the Arts!, and Johnson City Public Art. In this way, we can come together to honor the suffragists who "passed the torch" in continuing efforts for expanded voting rights so that the United States of America can be a "more perfect union."



### **In Witness Whereof,**

I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Johnson City, Tennessee, to be affixed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020.

  
Jenny L. Brock, Mayor



# City of Johnson City Tennessee

## Mayoral Proclamation

### Whereas

the 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote nationally on August 18, 1920; and

### Whereas

the constitutional amendment had been ratified by 35 states and could not become official until it had been certified by Congress; and

### Whereas

Tennessee became the battleground to ratify the amendment after 4 states refused to consider the resolution; and

### Whereas

a package of documents from the state of Tennessee arrived by train in Washington around 4 a.m. containing an official ratification document from the state legislature making Tennessee the 36th state to ratify the amendment; and

### Whereas

Harry T. Burn, a 24-year-old legislator, switched his vote on the Tennessee state house floor at the urging of his mother, Febb Burn; and

### Whereas

local organizations such as the Johnson City Suffrage Club and The Monday Club of Johnson City worked tirelessly in support of the Amendment; and

### Whereas

the leadership of many Johnson City women, such as Eliza Shaut White and Alpha Richardson Sells, was instrumental in the local struggle for ratification of the amendment.

**Now, Therefore, I,** Jenny L. Brock, Mayor of the city of Johnson City, Tennessee, do hereby proclaim August 18, 2019 through August 18, 2020, to be

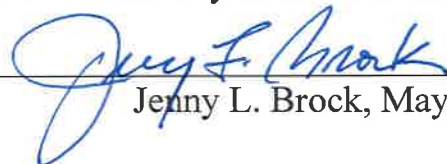
### *Women's Suffrage Centennial Celebration*

and invite all citizens to participate in Suffrage events throughout next year. 144 years after the signing of the Constitution, women finally gained the right to vote. Men and women alike should celebrate because the passage of the 19th Amendment on August 19, 1920 the United States of America became a "more perfect union".



### **In Witness Whereof,**

I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Johnson City, Tennessee, to be affixed this 3rd day of October 2019.

  
Jenny L. Brock, Mayor