

1982 THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

You get to decide if Florida should ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

The ERA would guarantee men and women equal rights. Thirty-five states have already ratified the amendment.

If Florida does too, it would set the stage for it to be added to the U.S. Constitution.

After the U.S. Congress passed the amendment, the ERA was sent to the state legislatures for ratification. Legislators from every state had to consider the question: ***Should the Equal Rights Amendment be added to the U.S. Constitution?***

Go through the Prezzi and do the following activities. These will help you get a better idea of the project so you can decide if Florida's Legislature should ratify the Equal Rights Amendment in order for it to be added to the U.S. Constitution. As you go through the Prezzi, keep an eye out for blue shapes. When you see one, read that slide. Then stop and answer the questions below that match the shape...



1. Read the text of the 19th Amendment.

Text of the 19th Amendment

(Passed by Congress June 4, 1919, Ratified August 18, 1920)

Section 1: *The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.*

Section 2: *Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.*

What right did the 19th Amendment guarantee American women?



Women suffrage headquarters: Cleveland, Ohio, 1912
(Library of Congress: www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/cph.3a52979/)



2. Underline similarities in language between the text of the 19th Amendment and the Equal Rights Amendment.

The full text of the Equal Rights Amendment:

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.*

Now, write down ONE reason why you think these amendments would use similar language.

3. The two options that are given in the Prezi for adding amendments to the Constitution come from Article V of the U.S. Constitution. Below is the actual text of Article V.



Read the text below. Then, underline all of the parts of the text that explain the first option for adding an amendment listed above. After that, double-underline all of the parts of the text that explain the second way an amendment can be added.

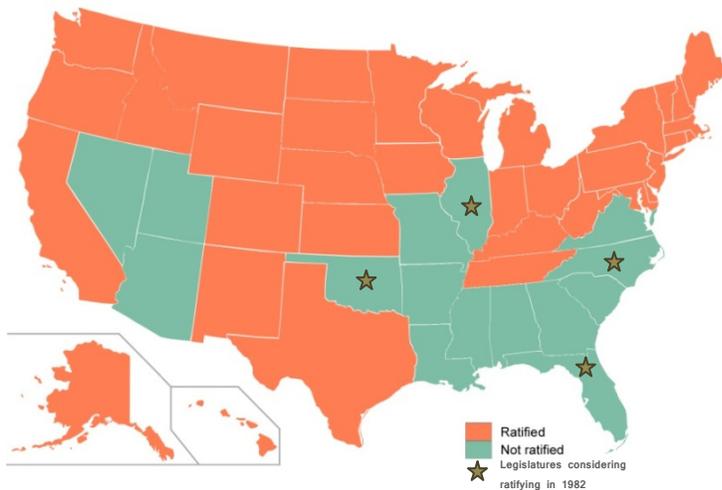
ARTICLE V OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION:



The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.



RATIFICATION THE ERA IN 1982:



The four state legislatures that will vote on the ERA in the summer of 1982 are Florida, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Illinois.

4. Look at the map and try to see if you can notice any patterns of ratifications.

Then, next to each state name below, write if you think their legislature will ratify the ERA or not and why you think that:

Florida:

Oklahoma:

North
Carolina:

Illinois:

THE ERA DEBATE:

<p>Phyllis Schlafly <i>National Chairman of STOP Equal Rights Amendment</i></p>			<p>Ann Scott <i>Vice President for Legislation of the National Organization for Women (NOW)</i></p>
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QUESTION 1: Will the ERA help end discrimination in the workplace?

1. Which person do you think makes a better argument? Please explain why in your own words.



QUESTION 2: How will the ERA affect marriage?

2. Which person do you think makes a better argument? Please explain why in your own words.



QUESTION 3: How will the ERA affect the military?

3. Which person do you think makes a better argument? Please explain why in your own words.



QUESTION 4: Could we just pass laws against discrimination? Why is the amendment necessary?

4. Which person do you think makes a better argument? Please explain why in your own words.



THE NATION WAS DIVIDED AND SO WAS FLORIDA.



Pro and Con demonstrators try to outshout each other in the legislative halls - Tallahassee, Florida. January 18, 1982
Photograph by Donn Dughi (State Archives of Florida, *Florida Memory*, www.floridamemory.com/items/show/102822)

5. **Why do you think the state and the country are both so divided about this issue?**

6. **Why do you think so many people came up to Tallahassee to protest?**

7. **Join the protestors! Design your own sign below, stating if you're in favor or against the ERA.
*Please be as clever or creative as you can with your sign!***

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____



Many others who felt strongly about the ERA could not make the trip to Tallahassee. Instead, they called and wrote letters to their representatives expressing their views. Below are actual letters that were sent to representatives in Florida. Some of them include arguments similar to ones we just discussed.

8. Read all the letters and mark whether the letter is in favor or against the ERA.

LETTER 1:	<input type="checkbox"/> In favor	<input type="checkbox"/> Against
Jacksonville Coalition for the ERA P.O. Box 11072 Jacksonville, Florida 32211 February 6, 1974 Dear Senator Smathers: Opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is a blow to all Americans who believe that an individual's rights and responsibilities should not be dependent upon sex or marital status. Why is it that men and women are not equally treated in awarding of child custody? Why is it that men and women are not considered equally in promotions? Please help change these inequities. Vote for, speak for, encourage support of the Equal Rights Amendment. Sincerely, Luann Bennett		

LETTER 2:	<input type="checkbox"/> In favor	<input type="checkbox"/> Against
1044 Martin Drive Rockledge, Florida March 25, 1974 Dear Senator Smathers, I am not much of a letter writer, as you can see, but as a concerned citizen, and voter, feel pressed to voice my opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment. Most active of all on behalf of this very insidious bill are the communists (who never let up.) We hope the many letters you will be receiving will urge you to take a second look. For God and County Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Fuscaldo		

9. What are the two reasons Luann Bennett gives for her stance on the ERA?

10. Who do Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Fuscaldo say are most active in supporting this bill? What evidence have you seen that supports their claim?

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____



LETTER 3: In favor Against

Citizens Against Women's Draft

P.O. Box 12934

Interbay Station

Tampa, Florida 33611

March 22, 1974

Dear Legislator:

[Excerpt]... There are many detrimental effects of the Equal Rights Amendment, but, ... we are mainly concerned with the fact that, should the ERA pass, ... young girls nineteen years old must be drafted into the military service and into combat units on exactly the same basis as young men. ... There has been a strong effort to minimize this effect of the ERA, but the cold, hard, realistic facts are that we will have military conflicts in the future, the so-called volunteer Army will not support the manpower for such conflicts, the young girls of Florida would be drafted into the military service and into combat units, they would be taught to kill and be killed, would be wounded and taken prisoner These are facts not scare tactics, emotional arguments or un-truths.

Please consider your position on this amendment very carefully and prayerfully. Thanking you, we are

Sincerely yours,

Louis W. Putney and Jeanie T. Putney

Co-Chairmen

LETTER 4: In favor Against

May 18, 1976

Gov. Reubin Askew

Tallahassee, Fla. 32304

& Members of the West Florida Delegation-

Dear Members of our State Government:

I'm writing to urge each and every one of you to support the Equal Rights Amendment!

It doesn't matter whether, I am male or female, black or white, rich or poor, old or young, Democrat or Republican, etc., disabled or able, intelligent or ignorant; I believe everyone was born with equal rights and are entitled to them as citizens of this great nation of ours.

I feel if any of you vote against this bill, you would be voting against your own rights, as well as against the rights of all of your Constitutents [sic].

Sincerely,

Helen Y. Spera

c.c. Sen. Childers, Sen. Tom Tobiassen, Rep. Melvin, Rep. Fortune, Rep. Peoder [?], Rep. Hagler, Rep. Robinson, Rep. Tolton

11. What organization are Louis and Jeanie Putney from? What issue are they writing about regarding the amendment?

12. Who has Helen Spera sent this letter to? Why do you think she sent it to so many people?

