



The City of Mercer Island, Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, on August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution extended the right to vote to women – a major victory for women's rights and gender equality; and

WHEREAS, on the anniversary of the 19th Amendment, Women's Equality Day, we celebrate the progress that has been made toward securing women's full participation in our democracy and renew our commitment to securing equal rights, freedoms, and opportunities for all women; and

WHEREAS, on Women's Equality Day, we honor the character and perseverance of America's women and all those who work to make the same rights and opportunities possible for our daughters and sons; and

WHEREAS, women's contributions are growing our economy and advancing our country. But, despite these gains, the dreams of too many mothers and daughters continue to be deferred and denied. There is still more work to do and more doors of opportunity to open; and

WHEREAS, in the 21st century, women should be able to be role models for young girls—showing her that with hard work there are no limits to what can be accomplished; and fathers, sons and brothers too should share these ambitions. On Women's Equality Day, we continue to support the work of building a society where women thrive; and

WHEREAS, we share a powerful history of women and men, girls and boys working together to lift up women and girls in our community and a continued commitment to gender equity for all women and girls; and

WHEREAS, for the first time in history a major political party has selected a woman candidate for the office of the President of the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Deputy Mayor Debbie Bertlin do hereby proclaim August 25, 2016 as

MERCER ISLAND WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

and invite all Mercer Island residents to join together at Mercerdale Park on August 25, 2016 at 6:00pm to celebrate **WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY** with live music, food and local guest speakers.

APPROVED, this 1st day of August, 2016

Debbie Bertlin, Deputy Mayor