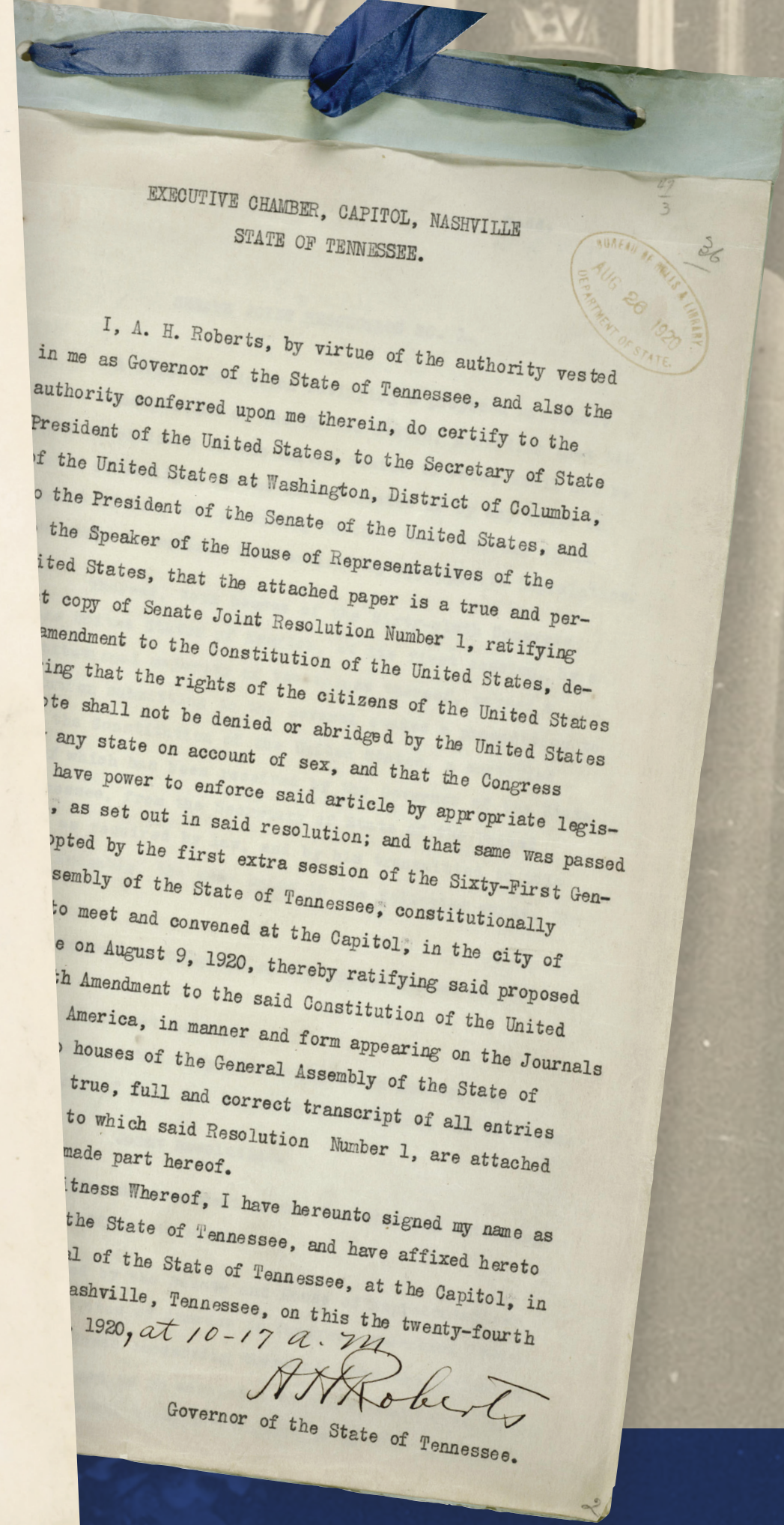
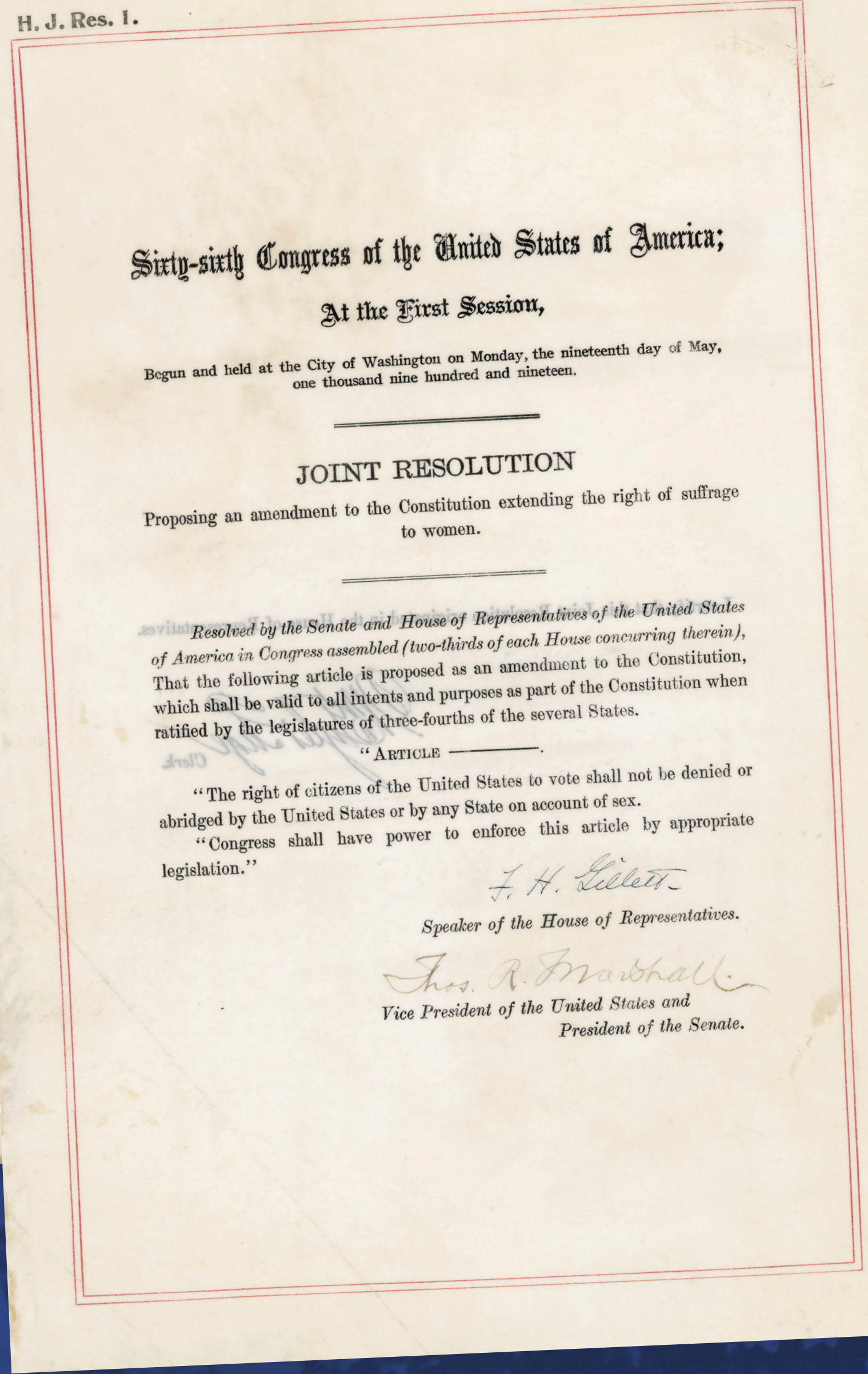


# 19<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENT

“IT WAS A CONTINUOUS, SEEMINGLY ENDLESS, CHAIN OF ACTIVITY. YOUNG SUFFRAGISTS WHO HELPED FORGE THE LAST LINKS OF THAT CHAIN WERE NOT BORN WHEN IT BEGAN. OLD SUFFRAGISTS WHO FORGED THE FIRST LINKS WERE DEAD WHEN IT ENDED.”

— Carrie Chapman Catt and Nettie Rogers Shuler



Tennessee's Ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, August 18, 1920  
National Archives, General Records of the United States Government

Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, June 4, 1919  
National Archives, General Records of the United States Government

The ratification of the 19th Amendment was a landmark moment in American history that dramatically changed the electorate. It enshrined in the United States Constitution fuller citizenship for women and a more expansive democracy for the nation.

“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.”

— 19th Amendment, August 18, 1920

## Why is Tennessee's ratification of the 19th amendment significant?

After Congress passed and proposed a woman suffrage amendment, three-fourths or 36 states at that time, had to ratify the 19th Amendment before it could be added to the Constitution. Many states quickly approved the 19th amendment and by the

end of March 1920 only one additional state was needed for ratification. On August 18, 1920, after calling a special session of the state legislature, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment.



“Learning to use a voting machine,” Chicago, ca. 1915  
National Archives, Records of the Office of War Information



Women marching in suffrage parade, 1917  
Courtesy of Carrie Chapman Catt Papers, Special Collections Department, Bryn Mawr College Library



## OUR ABILITY TO AMEND

The Founders purposefully made it hard, but not impossible, to change the Constitution. In 1869 the first amendment proposing suffrage for women was introduced in Congress. It took fifty years and 900 proposals for Congress to pass a resolution that became the 19th amendment to the Constitution.

Presented in part by:

