

**ERA Resolution for District 11**  
**Sponsored by the Zonta Club of Tallahassee**  
**Adopted at District Conference, September 29, 2006, Hilton Head Island, SC**

Whereas; Zonta International is dedicated to improving the legal, political, economic, educational, health, and professional status of women and to eradicating violence against women and children, and ensuring the equality of women in all areas of life through community and international service; and

Whereas; Zonta International has endorsed CEDAW, the international Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and Girls (2003); and

Whereas; the United States has not yet endorsed CEDAW; and

Whereas; American women were not included as full and equally citizens in the original United States Constitution, and today the right to vote (granted by the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment in 1920) is the only right that the Constitution specifically affirms as equal for women and men; and

Whereas; the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment's equal protection clause has never been consistently interpreted to grant equal rights on the basis of sex; and

Whereas; despite the passage of numerous anti-discrimination laws and their extension to address discrimination based on sex, differing state laws and court decisions have created an inconsistent and confusing pattern of women's rights across the nation so that women as a class are not assured of fair legal treatment; and

Whereas; state and federal laws do not have the same moral or legal force as a federal constitutional guarantee; and

Whereas; the constitutions of many other nations specifically affirm the legal equality of men and women and the United States government has insisted that such nations as Afghanistan and Iraq include statements affirming women's legal equality in their new constitutions; and

Whereas; the United States has not yet ratified the Equal Rights Amendment that would ensure American women of full and equal rights; and

Whereas; none of the states in the *geographical* area of District 11 of Zonta International ratified the Equal Rights Amendment; and

Whereas; Members of Zonta have dedicated themselves to local and international projects and public advocacy to ensure the equality of women in all areas of life;

BE IT RESOLVED, therefore, that:

1. District 11 members *may* educate themselves about the need for an Equal Rights Amendment to ensure that women enjoy full equality under the Constitution of the United States.
2. District 11 members *may* draw upon their diverse expertise and resources to develop strategies and seek partners to educate the public about the need for an Equal Rights Amendment.
3. District 11 members may work with others in their respective states to advocate for state ratification of the ERA.
4. The District 11 Board will aid local clubs and areas to combine their efforts and encourage communication and cooperation among the clubs to make their individual efforts more effective.
5. District 11 will encourage efforts to engage in public advocacy for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment by the legislatures of those states that are within District 11.