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Knoxville has the exciting opportunity to create an important new public space commemorating one of the most extraordinary advancements of democracy in our nation's history.

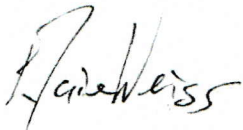
The Women's Suffrage Museum Cultural and Events Center will tell the story of the seven decade campaign to make our nation live up to the ideals of equality and democracy enshrined in the Declaration of Independence and Constitution; to embody the credo of "government by and for the people" by giving American women--half of the citizens of the nation, long denied a voice in their own government--the right to vote.

The suffragists built a powerful mass movement based on persuasion, education, strategy, and protest culminating in ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920, the largest expansion of voting rights in our history.

It is especially fitting that the Museum will tell this story in Knoxville, as Tennessee became the pivotal final state to secure ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, and the young legislator who cast the deciding vote (with the advice of his mother) lived in and represented this region of East Tennessee.

Utilizing engaging exhibits and innovative presentations the museum will be the first dedicated to the history of the women's suffrage movement---a broad -based national coalition dedicated to a fuller realization of our democracy--while also animating the debates, challenges, and present-day relevance of the issues the movement faced.

The Museum promises to be a sparkling new addition to downtown Knoxville, as well as an illuminating center for education, engagement, and pride in what citizens can accomplish by working together to improve our nation.



Elaine Weiss

author of *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*