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Mayor of Knoxville, TN 2011-2019

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I am writing to express my full support for the Women's Suffrage Museum Events & Cultural Center.

As the first woman mayor of Knoxville, perhaps I am biased. I deeply understand that the actions and struggles of multitudes of women (and enlightened men) across our country for *seven decades* led to my right to vote and to my opportunity to serve as mayor.

And as East Tennesseans, we have a special place in that history. By August 1920, 35 states had ratified the 19th Amendment. One more was needed and it came down to Tennessee. But the Tennessee House of Representatives was deeply split and was being lobbied fiercely by both sides.

One Letter and One Vote ultimately determined the outcome. One Woman and One Man. One Mother and One Son.

The 19th amendment was ratified when Febb Burn from Niota, Tennessee, wrote a heartfelt letter to her 24-year-old son, State Representative Harry T. Burn, to encourage him to switch his vote and support the women. He listened to his mother. He broke the tie, the amendment was ratified, and the rest is history.

There are so many civic lessons in this story: achieving equity and social change requires working together over an often long and sustained effort; the importance of building bridges and partnerships toward common goals; and the power of one individual action and one vote to change the course of history.

I'm excited that the Women's Suffrage Museum will teach these lessons and more, and that Tennessee's proud legacy will be preserved as the "Perfect 36" - the final state needed to enfranchise 27 million women.

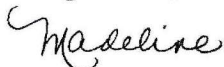
In addition, the Museum's state-of-the-art Events & Cultural Center will provide Knoxville with a premier venue for civic gatherings, leadership forums, and educational programming.

This Museum represents the culmination of a three-decade effort led by Wanda Sobieski, Founder and President of the Suffrage Coalition, and supported by an energetic group of Coalition members. Wanda has also enlisted an expert development and creative team led by Mary Kellogg-Joslyn, Co-founder and former COO of the Titanic Museum Attractions. I have observed and supported this effort over the years and have every confidence it will be a huge success.

Wanda's tireless work has kept this vital American story alive, and this permanent home ensures it will inspire generations to come. Your support will help us reach this goal.

Will you join us?

With gratitude,



Madeline Rogero