



Member of General Federation of Women's Clubs

August 12, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Ossoli Circle, I am pleased to express our enthusiastic support for the establishment of a Women's Suffrage Museum in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Ossoli Circle has a particularly meaningful connection to the history of women's rights and suffrage in Knoxville. Our organization was founded in 1885 by Lizzie Crozier French, a remarkable Knoxville educator, civic leader, and advocate for women's rights. French believed strongly in expanding educational and civic opportunities for women, and she became an important leader in Tennessee's woman suffrage movement. She advocated for women's right to vote and worked tirelessly to advance the cause in Tennessee. Her vision of educated, engaged women working together for the betterment of society was also at the heart of her founding of Ossoli Circle.

For more than 140 years, the women of Ossoli Circle have carried forward that spirit of education, service, leadership, and civic responsibility. We are proud that our own history is intertwined with the larger story of women who worked courageously to secure the rights and opportunities that women enjoy today.

Tennessee holds a special place in the history of women's suffrage as the state whose ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920 provided the final state needed for its adoption. A Suffrage Museum in Knoxville will provide an important opportunity to tell not only this national story, but also the stories of East Tennessee women such as Lizzie Crozier French who helped make progress possible.

Ossoli Circle is proud to lend its support to this important endeavor and to honor the women whose courage gave future generations a stronger voice.

Sincerely,

Linda Williams, President
GFWC Ossoli Circle