

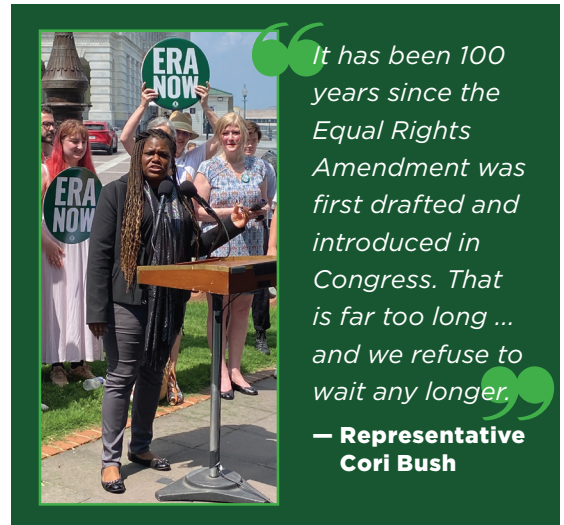
ERA NOW

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)

“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”

- Are you in favor of equal rights for all Americans?
- Are you aware that the Equal Rights Amendment has met all requirements for a constitutional amendment, finally guaranteeing all Americans equal rights regardless of sex?
- Are you aware that for four years the federal government has sidestepped certifying the Equal Rights Amendment and publishing it as part of the U.S. Constitution?

The Maryland Chapter of National Organization for Women (Maryland NOW) has resources available to inform you about the status of the Equal Rights Amendment and why it is needed now more than ever.



OBJECTIVE

WHY IS THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT NEEDED?

- The ERA ensures the U.S. Constitution includes **a clear expectation of sex equality in all aspects of life.**
- For decades, women have found legal recourse for sex discrimination under protections in the 14th Amendment. However, **in 2022 the Supreme Court assumed a more rigid interpretation of 14th Amendment protections asserting they do not apply to issues of sex discrimination, contraception, or same-sex marriage.** The ERA not only restores these protections, but strengthens them.
- The ERA gives Congress greater **power to enact laws that provide stronger protections against sexual assault and domestic violence.**
- **Without the ERA ... victims of sex discrimination have a harder time seeking legal recourse** because courts are not required to apply the same high standards of scrutiny in sex discrimination cases as the U.S. Constitution requires for discrimination based on race, national origin, or religion.
- **Without the ERA ... state and federal legislation advancing sex equality can be readily repealed or replaced** and state-level amendments guaranteeing sex equality (such as Maryland's ERA) can be overridden.
- **Without the ERA ...** the United States has fallen out of the top third of countries internationally when ranked by gender equality, and **the U.S. is ranked as the 10th most dangerous country in the world for women.**



Maryland NOW Equal Rights Amendment Task Force
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What is Holding the Equal Rights Amendment Back?

Although the ERA has met all requirements for a constitutional amendment, the Trump Administration declared the final three state ratifications invalid because they came after the time limit that was contained in the preamble to the ERA. President Biden has asked Congress to officially affirm the ERA is valid notwithstanding any time limit, and he has indicated once this is done he will direct the Archivist to certify and publish it. Maryland NOW is confident Marylanders can unite to increase public awareness and urge Congress to meet the President's request.

ACTION

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **Sign the [Sign4ERA.org](https://www.sign4era.org) petition** urging Congress to affirm the ERA and recruit at least 3 friends to also sign.



- **Follow Sign4ERA and Sign4ERA2024** on your social media channels and like, comment, share, and repost weekly. Recruit friends and family to do the same. Higher engagement results in more signatures!
- **Talk it up!** Share this document to start conversations with family, friends, colleagues, and others.
- **Broadcast on social media** to increase awareness and send a link to the [Sign4ERA.org](https://www.sign4era.org) petition.
- **Stay informed** by joining ERA-focused organizations or following them on social media (#ERANOW, #ERA100, #28THAmendment, @ERACoalition, @ERACaucus).
- **Join or donate funds or your time** to state and local chapters of ERA-focused organizations such as NOW, NFBPWC, LWV, AAUW, and Zonta.
- **Contact your members of Congress** through their congressional websites to urge them to support resolutions to advance the ERA. Hold members of Congress accountable for their positions on these resolutions!



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This ERA Fact Sheet was created by the Maryland NOW ERA Task Force.