

**RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT**

**POSITION OF THE LWVUS**

**Action taken under this position by LWNVNS**

**United States Constitution**

Delegates to the League's national convention in May 1972 voted to support the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the U. S. Constitution and to add to the national League social policy position a specific reference to equal rights regardless of sex. Although New York and 35 other states ratified the federal amendment, the needed 38 were not gained by the June 30, 1992 deadline. (**LWVUS Impact on Issues, 2006-2008, p. 57**)

**New York State Constitution**

In 1975 after playing a leading role in obtaining second passage of an Equal Rights Amendment to the state Constitution, the League and a statewide coalition unsuccessfully campaigned for voter approval in the general election. Strong nationwide opposition succeeded in defeating it. In 1984, Governor Mario Cuomo submitted an ERA to the legislature. The League was among the organizations working in support of the amendment that passed easily in the Assembly but was not considered in the Senate. A positive result of that unsuccessful effort was the emergence of a strong network of organizations that has continued to meet and work for issues important to women.