

Women in Nevada gained the right to vote in 1914. Congress passed the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote throughout the nation, in 1919. In 1920 the Nevada legislature met in special session to ratify the 19th amendment. Governor Emmet Boyle addressed a joint session of the Senate and Assembly.

"Carson City, February 7, 1920

To the Honorable, the Senate and the Assembly:

You have been called in extraordinary session for the one purpose of acting on the resolution of the Congress of the United States proposing the extension of the voting franchise to the women citizens of the Nation.

While no certainty exists that the favorable action of Nevada will in 1920 assure to the women of the United States the same voting privileges which our own women enjoy by virtue of our state law, it does appear certain that without our favorable action the cause of national suffrage may be delayed for such a time as to withhold the right to vote in a presidential election from millions of the women of America. Under the circumstances it has appeared to me that Nevada may well at this time live up to her chivalrous traditions. That your individual members have joined with me in this view has been made evident by your own expressions to state leaders in the movement.

I trust that the business of ratification may be conducted expeditiously.

On behalf of the people of the state, I may officially thank each and every member of this body for a spirit of cooperation in this enterprise which admirably exemplifies the traditional generosity of Nevadans in all public matters affecting the national welfare.

Permit me to express to each of you personally my own good wishes and the hope that this short session will be in every way a happy and harmonious one.

Respectfully submitted,
Emmet D. Boyle, Governor"

Statutes of Nevada
Special Session 1920

-contains the full text of Nevada ratifying the 19th amendment.