



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, on April 5, 1919, the Tennessee General Assembly passed a bill that permitted a limited right to vote for women in certain elections, this statute coming into effect upon the signature of Governor Albert H. Roberts on April 17, 1919; and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 1919, Mary Cordelia Beasley Hudson of Benton County became the first woman to legally cast a vote in a Tennessee election; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hudson self-disclosed that her vote in that local race was cast for the winner, A.V. Bowls, a statement that was reportedly a point of pride for the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, just over a year later, on August 18, 1919, Tennessee became the deciding state to ratify the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, regrettably, Mrs. Hudson passed away on October 1, 1920, and was thus unable to vote in the first Presidential election after the ratification of the 19th amendment; and

WHEREAS, residents of Benton County and surrounding areas will gather on April 22, 2019 to celebrate and honor the role that Mrs. Hudson and their county played in the history of women's suffrage;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim April 22, 2019 as the

*100th Anniversary of Mary Cordelia
Beasley Hudson's Historic Vote*

and encourage all citizens of Tennessee to join me in this worthy observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this sixteenth day of April, 2019.

Bill Lee

Governor

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Secretary of State