



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



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EDITORS: The following information is for immediate release. If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Brain, Communications Coordinator at 610-344-6279 or Mark Rupsis, Chester County Chief Operating Officer, at 610-344-6026.

PHOTO IDENTIFICATION: Chester County Commissioners Terence Farrell, Kathi Cozzone and Michelle Kichline with representatives from the “Your Vote is Your Voice! Empowered Women Vote” organization, along with Chester County employees, at the presentation of the Women’s History Month proclamation.

Chester County Commissioners proclaim March as Woman’s History Month and endorse Your Vote is Your Voice! Empowered Women Vote



WEST CHESTER _ The Chester County Commissioners proclaimed March as Women’s History Month at this week’s Commissioners’ meeting.

Members of the *Your Vote is Your Voice! Empowered Women Vote* coalition, who represent social service agencies, faith-based, civic and social organizations, accepted the proclamation. The coalition is encouraging the approximately 9,000 women in Chester County who are not currently registered to vote, to register in time for this year’s local, state and federal elections.

Cheryl Miles, a partner in the Your Vote is Your Voice campaign and Program Director for Bridge of Hope Lancaster and Chester Counties, reported to the commissioners that Your Vote is Your Voice members are training people to register women to vote. The organization is reaching out to child care centers, public housing residents, food cupboard participants, houses of worship, universities, senior centers and shopping centers to encourage and help women with the voter registration progress.

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The Commissioners' proclamation noted the many achievements attained by women over the past few centuries in every aspect of American life. Also, the proclamation pointed out that millions of women worked and sacrificed to gain the right to vote in 1920 after a 70-year battle.

The proclamation states: "During Women's History Month, a coalition of stakeholders, under the umbrella of *Your Vote is Your Voice! Empowered Women Vote*, is implementing a non-partisan countywide campaign to increase voter registration in line with the dream of the millions of American women who first exercised their right to vote on election day in 1920.

"The Board of Commissioners, County of Chester, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby proclaims its support for Women's History Month throughout March 2016, and calls upon all Chester County women to honor the struggle by suffragettes to gain the right to vote, by registering and voting in the 2016 elections."

Chester County is the first county in Pennsylvania to initiate a strategic planning process and has a Aaa rating on its bonds from Moody's Investors Service as well as AAA ratings from Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings. Established by William Penn as one of Pennsylvania's three original counties, Chester County has been named by Forbes.com as one of America's best places to raise a family and is ranked one of the healthiest counties in Pennsylvania by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.