

# Report of the Suffragist Memorial Subcommittee to the Capitol Preservation Committee

**CHAIRPERSON:** Patrick Zollner

**LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS:** Senator Elaine Bowers and Representative Valdenia Winn

**NON-LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS:** Frank Burnam and Kate Van Steenhuyse

**STUDY TOPIC OR CHARGE**

*Construction of a suffragist memorial in the Statehouse*

October 2022

---



# Suffragist Memorial Subcommittee

## REPORT

### Conclusions and Recommendations

The Subcommittee recommends the League of Women Voters of Kansas proceed with a letter of inquiry to the Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission regarding fundraising, prospective locations, and design proposals. The Subcommittee also recommends the Capitol Preservation Committee review potential site locations to assist the League of Women Voters of Kansas in narrowing the scope of the request for proposal.

### BACKGROUND

The Capitol Preservation Committee (Committee) met on Tuesday, October 12, 2021. Marlene Merrill, League of Women Voters of Kansas, detailed a request for a Suffragist Memorial to be placed in the Statehouse or on the Statehouse grounds. The purpose of the project would be to install a permanent memorial to the role women have played in the formation of the state.

The Committee voted to establish a subcommittee to further study the possibility of such memorial. The Committee also recommended legislation be introduced to authorize the memorial and create a fund in which donations could be deposited.

Enacted 2022 SB 479 (SB 479) authorized the Suffragist Memorial and created the Kansas Suffragist Memorial Fund. The bill was introduced by Senator Bowers and 37 other senators. Governor Kelly signed the bill on Monday, April 11, 2022.

### SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The Suffragist Memorial Subcommittee (Subcommittee) met on October 18, 2022. An Assistant Revisor of Statutes, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, provided background information on SB 479.

Representatives of the League of Women Voters of Kansas presented a draft version of a request for proposal (RFP) to commission an artist to create the memorial. The presenters requested input from the Subcommittee regarding the location and form of the memorial.

The Subcommittee and the League of Women Voters of Kansas representatives discussed the following topics:

- Location;
- Form of art and design;
- Installation limitations;
- Suffragist memorials in other states;
- Fundraising;
- Cost of the memorial;
- Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission consultation; and
- An RFP prepared by the League of Women Voters of Kansas.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Subcommittee recommended the League of Women Voters of Kansas proceed with a letter of inquiry to the Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission regarding fundraising, prospective

locations, and design proposals. The Subcommittee also recommended the Capitol Preservation Committee review potential site locations to assist the League of Women Voters of Kansas in narrowing the scope of the RFP.