



PROCLAMATION

Whereas, before the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States constitution was passed in 1920, women did not have wide spread voting rights nationally; and

Whereas on April 6, 1891 Lombard resident and attorney Ellen Martin arrived at a Lombard polling place and requested a ballot to cast her historic vote in a local election on the grounds that the Village Charter stated she only needed to be a resident of Lombard, without mention of gender; and

Whereas, casting that ballot made her the first women to vote in the region, and subsequently, fourteen other leading women in the community cast their ballots on that same day; and

Whereas, Ellen Martin became a model of courage and justice for women locally and nationally, and the act persuaded Lombard citizens to grant women the vote in local school elections; and

Whereas, March is Women's History Month when the Lombard Historical Society, Maple Street Chapel and the Village of Lombard recognize the efforts of our local women in history;

Now, be it resolved that the community of Lombard recognizes the efforts of suffragettes like Ellen Martin at the upcoming program "Casting a Historic Ballot in Lombard" on April 6, 2008, an event sponsored by the Lombard Historical Society and the Maple Street Chapel.

William J. Mueller
Village President

