

Elect **Denise Merrill**
Democrat SECRETARY OF THE STATE

Dear Luther,

Tonight the Connecticut Federation of Democratic Women's Clubs is celebrating "Women's Equality Day"- the 90th Anniversary of a Woman's Right to Vote! On August 26, 1920, U.S. Secretary of State, Bainbridge Colby certified the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment. A few weeks later, on September 14, 1920, Connecticut became the 37th state to ratify the amendment.

As I prepare my remarks for the event, I am deeply moved by the significance of this historic event and the 100 year struggle by heroic women who fearlessly fought to win the right to vote. I am reminded that we can never take our right to vote for granted and must work every day to extend that right to those who are left out.

The Office of Secretary of the State is charged with safeguarding everyone's right to vote and I will do everything in my power to ensure open, fair and secure elections. Everyone's vote must count. Voting should be easy and I will work hard to explore ways to increase registration and voter turnout.

But more importantly, I believe we need to inspire people to vote. These are difficult times and people are worried about the economy. We need to give people a reason to vote and get involved. I will make it a priority of my Office to expand civic education and bring people together who experience isolation and disenfranchisement.



(8/26)- Merrill with students at PCSW's Voter Registration Drive at Manchester Community College

We must recommit ourselves to full participation in the civic life of Connecticut and in this country to honor the memory of those who did not have the right to vote in their lifetime, but fought so that their daughters and granddaughters would have full equality.

As we celebrate the 90th anniversary of American women gaining the right to vote, let us take the success of the suffrage movement as a call to action to recognize and harness the power of voting and democracy. Let us use that power to erase continuing inequalities that exist in Connecticut, and let's not wait another 90 years to get it done!

Thank you to the dedicated Connecticut Federation of Democratic Women's Club!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise Merrill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.