**How to Write & Place a Compelling League Op-Ed in Support of the Equal Rights Amendment**

**Before you start:**

* + Check your target newspaper’s word count on op-ed submissions.
  + Have a few state or community specific statistics to strengthen the argument.

**LWV ERA Outline:**

News Hook / The problem: The ERA ratification deadline removal passed the U.S. House of Representatives and was introduced in the Senate as S.J. Res. 6 on February 13. [Insert state specific example of why your state needs this now]. Help us bring equality to the finish line.

THESIS / The solution: Women continue to face discrimination on the basis of sex. It is not enough to treat the symptoms; we must address the root cause of inequality by amending the Constitution. Equality does not have a time limit, remove the deadline and ratify the ERA.

ARGUMENT #1: ERA will combat discrimination

* There is no doubt that significant progress has been made for women throughout the years. However, women continue to battle systematic discrimination in the form of unequal pay, workplace harassment, and domestic violence, to name a few.
* [EXAMPLES OF SEX- BASED DISCRIMINATION IN YOUR STATE]
* Tackling these issues will take more than just reactionary solutions; we must address their root cause—inequality—by amending our Constitution.

ARGUMENT #2: Strength of Having a Constitutional Amendment

* A constitutional amendment guaranteeing equality has a much stronger mandate than legislation or any type of legal precedent will.
* The values enshrined in our Constitution are unshakeable, and having the ERA be a part of it, will ensure that any future challenges to equal rights will be struck down.
* [If applicable: add that your State has an ERA in their State Constitution to show that there is a strong legal precedence for the ERA already.].
* The ERA will pave the way for further legislative progress towards gender equality and will allow the courts to closely scrutinize sex-based discrimination.

ARGUMENT #3:Public Support in [YOUR STATE] for the ERA

* There is overwhelming national support for the ERA. According to a 2016 poll by the ERA Coalition, 94% of Americans support an amendment to the Constitution guaranteeing equal rights for men and women.
* [Insert any polling data or evidence showing support amongst [OHIOANS/GEORGIANS ETC.] for the Equal Rights Amendment if available]

ARGUMENT #4: Congress has the authority to act on this and move the needle of progress forward

* The momentum and desire for the ERA has grown in the past few years and is now greater than ever. In 2017, Nevada ratified the amendment, and in 2018 Illinois followed suit. Recently, Virginia became the 38th State to ratify, giving the amendment the three-fourths of state support it needs to be enshrined in the Constitution.
* The U.S Supreme Court has upheld that Congress can determine whether an Amendment has been ratified within a reasonable time. Equality does not need to wait for the right timing, and Senators [NAME] and [NAME] should vote to pass it.
* The resolution has bipartisan support.
* We cannot let the efforts to ratify the amendment be done in vain. By passing S.J. Res. 6, the Senate can ensure that the work of those before us and the livelihoods of generations to come are protected with this constitutional amendment.

SUMMARIZE:

* The Equal Rights Amendment is long overdue. Remove the ratification deadline and show the nation that equality has no time limit.
* [Recap each argument]
* The voters of [your state] want to see their values affirmed and equality under the law truly enshrined in our Constitution.

CALL TO ACTION:

* The power to remove the ratification deadline lies in the hands of the Senate. We urge every [resident of your state] to contact Senators [insert name of Senator] and ask them to vote yes on S.J. Res. 6.