



SOUTH JERSEY NOW
ALICE PAUL CHAPTER



South Jersey NOW – Alice Paul chapter
Program Meeting
on April 11, 7:30 pm
at First Baptist Church,
19 W Main Street, Moorestown

Why We Need the ERA Now More Than Ever

The proposed Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the U.S. Constitution was written in 1923 by Alice Paul – our chapter namesake – after she helped win the right to vote for women. Introduced in every session of Congress from 1923 to 1972, and finally ratified by 36 states (two fewer than the 38 states required), the ERA has never become law. Recently, a few additional states have shown interest in ratifying the ERA, and the battle has heated up. Its passage is one of the priority issues for the National Organization for Women.

Guest speaker Linda Wharton will address why amending the Constitution to add an Equal Rights Amendment is more important than ever in the era of Donald Trump. Some states have adopted state ERAs, and the positive impact of those state ERAs will be discussed, along with the current status of the Federal ERA.

Linda J. Wharton is a Professor of Political Science at Stockton University, where she teaches courses in Constitutional Law, Women and the Law, Civil Liberties, Advanced Constitutional Litigation, and Gender and Political Action. Professor Wharton's scholarly research and writing focuses on issues of state federal constitutional law with a special concentration in the law of gender discrimination. From 1989 until 1997, she was the Managing Attorney of the Women's Law Project, a public interest law firm in Philadelphia where she specialized in gender discrimination. After graduation from Rutgers Law School in 1981, she was a law clerk to the chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and then an associate lawyer with the Dechert law firm in Philadelphia. Professor Wharton is the former Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Women's History Project.