

## MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

### PROCLAMATION NO. 24

Proclaiming June 2025 as Pride Month for the Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual (2SLGBTQIA+) Community in Multnomah County, Oregon.

#### **Multnomah County Finds:**

- A. June 2025 marks the 56th anniversary of the first Pride March, held on June 28, 1970, in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago, on the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall Inn Uprising in New York City. The “Stonewall Uprising” was a set of demonstrations led by transgender women of color that served as trailblazers for the gay rights movement, such as Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, and Stormé DeLarverie, alongside other revolutionary activists in response to state-sanctioned violence against the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.
- B. Political action is integral to the recognition of Pride. In the same year as the first Pride March in 1970, the Portland Gay Liberation Front was founded as the first visible gay movement organization locally. Six years later, Kathleen Saadat – LGBTQ+ activist and future Multnomah County employee – helped organize Portland's first gay rights march.
- C. Pride is a critical time to recognize that challenging the status-quo requires addressing the intersectional and compounding impacts of racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, and economic injustice. Due to this impact, Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) – and especially queer and transgender people within BIPOC communities – continue to experience disproportionate discrimination and harm – all while working tirelessly to interrupt injustices in their own communities. Multnomah County acknowledges and affirms its commitment to addressing disparities in economic and health outcomes and removing any barriers to essential resources and services that these communities experience.
- D. Multnomah County recognizes that the legacies and present-day manifestations of colonialism and slavery contribute to erasing the cultural practices, languages, and understandings of Indigenous and enslaved people — including their recognition of sexual and gender identities that are expansive beyond the conventional binary paradigm.
- E. This year's Pride Month comes at an increasingly dangerous time for members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community who are facing increasing targeting, violence, and civil rights violations, as well as the continued and vicious dismemberment of the social and cultural safety nets in place to keep members of this community safe.

- F. In the last few years, states across the country have advanced a record number of bills targeting the rights of 2SLGBTQIA+ people, especially transgender youth and adults. The number of anti-LGBTQ+ bills proposed by state legislatures have increased from 510 in 2023, to 533 in 2024, to nearly 600 as of only June this year. These attacks disproportionately impact the transgender community and queer and trans people of color. Multnomah County recognizes that 2SLGBTQIA+ communities are in present danger and commits to protecting those communities.
- G. This month, the U.S. Supreme Court signaled its unwillingness to defend the rights of transgender people to access gender affirming health care. In light of the *United States v. Skrametti* decision, Multnomah County reaffirms its belief that gender affirming care is evidence-based, life-saving care, and reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that members of the transgender community have access to the resources they need to live and thrive in our county.
- H. In the face of these attacks on 2SLGBTQIA+ people and their rights, Multnomah County remains committed to deconstructing institutional racism, transphobia, and heterosexism, and providing programs and services in partnership with community organizations that meet the needs of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.
- I. Multnomah County recognizes its long history of contributing to the advancement of equal rights and justice for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. In 1985, Multnomah County banned discrimination in county hiring on the basis of sexual orientation. In 1992, Multnomah County became the first public employer in Oregon to extend health benefits to domestic partners of its employees, regardless of their gender or sex. In 2000, Multnomah County was the second county in the state to expand their discrimination bans to include gender identity, extending non-discrimination protections to all 2SLGBTQIA+ people. In 2004, Multnomah County became the first jurisdiction in the Northwest to issue marriage licenses to same-gender couples.
- J. Many current and former Multnomah County employees and members of the Board of County Commissioners have been champions for 2SLGBTQIA+ rights — including the aforementioned Kathleen Saadat, as well as the late County Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury (known affectionately as the “Godmother of Oregon Gay Civil Rights”) and former County Chair Gladys McCoy, the first African American to win elected office in Oregon and who championed a gay equality plank as a delegate to the 1972 National Democratic Convention.
- K. Multnomah County further recognizes the invaluable work of staff from the Office of Diversity and Equity, as well as the county Employee Resource Groups, Prism and Queer and Trans People of Color (QTPOC), which together serve over 300 employees. This work is vital to ensuring that members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community can thrive when working for the County. The County reaffirms its commitment to fully support and fund this work.

- L. Multnomah County recognizes that the progress made locally could not have happened without a broad-based and inclusive movement composed of people working across identities — be it race, gender, sexual orientation, faith, immigration status, and others — to advance the cause of 2SLGBTQIA+ rights and social justice for all.

**Multnomah County Proclaims:**

June 2025 as Pride Month for the Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual (2SLGBTQIA+) Community in Multnomah County, Oregon, and with this proclamation affirms commitment to supporting the rights, inclusion, and the liberation through justice for all regardless of sexual identity or gender identity.

**SIGNED this July 9th, 2025.**

*Meghan W. Moyer*

*[Signature]*

*Jessica Vega Pederson*

*Julia P. Edwards*

*[Signature]*

REVIEWED:

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By

Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

**SPONSORED BY:** The Office of Chair Jessica Vega Pederson  
& Commissioner Meghan Moyer, District 1.