MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON
PROCLAMATION NO. 84

Proclaiming September 15 through October 15, 2026, as Hispanic and Latiné Heritage Month in Multnomah County, Oregon.

Multnomah County Finds:

A. For over fifty years, Multnomah County has observed and recognized "Mes de Nuestra Herencia Hispana / Latiné," also known as National "Hispanic and Latiné Heritage Month," from September 15 to October 15. This month is an opportunity to honor the histories, cultures, contributions, and enduring presence of Hispanic and Latiné communities to celebrate the generations who have helped shape Multnomah County, Oregon, and our country.

B. This year's theme, "***Healing Into Action: Our Roots, Our Power***," is a natural evolution of "***La Cultura Cura: Culture Heals***." It recognizes healing not as an endpoint, but as the foundation from which our communities move with purpose. Our roots remind us who we are, what our communities have endured, and what generations before us have built. From those roots comes our fuerza - the strength to care for one another, to speak when our communities are threatened, to organize when our rights are challenged, and to transform healing into advocacy, solidarity, leadership, and action.

C. Latiné communities have had a presence in Oregon for centuries. Today, we make up roughly 15.3% of the county's population, with over 103,000 individuals proudly identifying as Hispanic or Latiné. And we are growing. By 2050, about two out of every ten residents in the county will be Latino. Resilience has shaped us into the most diverse community. Our roots reach across nations, generations, languages, races, and traditions. We are Indigenous, Black, Brown, Afro-Latino, Mestizo, immigrants, refugees, and descendants of families who have called Oregon home for generations. We carry the wisdom of our abuelas y abuelos, the sacrifices of those who came before us, and the hopes of those still finding their way. Our stories are different, but they are connected by culture, community, perseverance, and a shared belief that our families deserve the opportunity to live with dignity and thrive.

D. Those roots have sustained Hispanic and Latiné communities through generations of adversity. Our history is not only a history of hardship; it is a history of people who have organized, advocated, created, worked, taught, cared for families, built businesses, served the public, cultivated the land, made art, led movements, and fought to make their communities stronger. We honor that legacy not simply by remembering it, but by carrying it forward. Through our cultura, we learn from ancient teachings passed down by our elders to live in balance with one another. This circular way of learning affirms that when families and communities grow stronger, so do individuals - and when individuals heal, entire communities flourish.

E. Con mucho orgullo, we celebrate the countless contributions made to this county and country by Latino entrepreneurs, medical providers, athletes, educators, artists, organizers, scientists, farmworkers, public servants, elected officials, and much more. We also uplift marginalized groups, including women, Black, and Indigenous Latiné peoples. We especially honor those whose labor sustains our communities, including agricultural and essential workers who continue to provide for our families, often under the most challenging conditions.

F. We also recognize the indispensable contributions of the 896 Hispanic and Latiné employees at Multnomah County; together they make up 14.2% of our workforce. They serve our community every day, bringing their experiences, cultures, languages, leadership, and commitment to public service into the work of County government. We honor our employees and the community leaders, advocates, and mission-driven partners who work toward justice, opportunity, and dignity for all.

G. We recognize this month's celebration comes at a time of direct and persistent attacks on our community, as the Trump Administration enacts the mass deportations of hundreds of thousands of immigrants, many of whom come from Latino communities. The use of unidentified, masked ICE agents to abduct people off the streets, outside courtrooms and schools is terrorizing our community. Federal immigration enforcement actions and policies have targeted immigrant communities and intensified fears of detention, deportation, family separation, and the denial of due process. These fears extend beyond any one individual and are felt by children, mixed-status families, workers, students, neighbors, and entire communities.

H. Fear has consequences. When families question whether it is safe to go to work, send a child to school, seek medical care, appear in court, report a crime, or access public services, the well-being of our entire community is affected. No one should have to choose between meeting a basic need, exercising a right, or protecting someone they love. We recognize the pain and uncertainty our communities carry and the fuerza required simply to continue showing up for our families and one another.

I. But our story does not begin or end with fear. Hispanic and Latiné communities have generations of experience turning adversity into action. We have organized movements, defended our neighbors, advocated for justice, built businesses and institutions, cared for one another, and created spaces of belonging when those spaces did not exist. **Our resilience is not simply our ability to endure; it is our ability to act, create, organize, lead, and transform.**

J. ***Healing Into Action*** calls us to draw upon the strength already within our communities. Healing gives us space to grieve, restore, reconnect, and remember. Action asks us what we will do with that strength. We turn healing into action when we advocate for our families, know and defend our rights, participate in civic life, organize our communities, support our neighbors, tell our stories, and use our voices to shape the decisions that affect our lives.

K. ***Our Roots, Our Power*** reminds us that power is not held only by institutions or those in positions of authority. There is power in community, culture, knowledge, advocacy, and solidarity. There is power when a neighbor protects a neighbor, when a young person discovers their voice, when workers stand together, when families share resources and information, when advocates demand justice, and when communities refuse to allow fear to isolate or silence them.

L. ***La unión hace la fuerza.*** Our power grows through unity. At a time when forces seek to divide communities by immigration status, language, race, nationality, generation, or circumstance, we choose solidarity. We recognize that the safety, dignity, and freedom of our neighbors are interconnected to our own and that our differences are not weaknesses to overcome, but strengths that deepen our collective power.

M. Multnomah County is a proud sanctuary county in a sanctuary state, which means that our governments cannot help enforce federal immigration laws without an order signed by a judge. Multnomah County will uphold its Community Sanctuary Promise and all other Oregon laws and legal protections. The County will continue to provide critical safety net services that treat every person with dignity – regardless of their immigration status. We all benefit when those who've migrated here – often fleeing dire and violent conditions – have the freedom and opportunity to thrive, pursue their dreams, and give back to their community. **All are welcome – today, tomorrow, no matter what.**

N. **On October 8, 2026**, Multnomah County will come together to celebrate Hispanic and Latiné Heritage Month and the cultures, stories, people, and contributions that make our community vibrant. We celebrate with joy and orgullo, while recognizing that celebration and action can exist together. We honor where we come from, stand together in the present, and recommit ourselves to building a future where generations to come can do more than survive — they can belong, lead, and thrive.

O. Multnomah County is committed to supporting and celebrating our Hispanic and Latiné neighbors, families, employees, and communities. Our culture heals, unites, and sustains us. It offers us dignity, respect, trust, love, and hope. From that healing comes fuerza, and from that strength comes action. We carry forward the power of our ancestors and the responsibility to use our voices, advocate for one another, defend the dignity of our communities, and plant seeds of opportunity and justice for generations to come.

Multnomah County Proclaims:

September 15 through October 15, 2026, as Hispanic and Latiné Heritage Month in Multnomah County, Oregon, in recognition, solidarity, and celebration of the many contributions of Hispanic and Latiné residents to the County and our community.

Together, we affirm: Our culture heals. Our roots strengthen us. Our unity gives us power. And together, we turn healing into action.

Healing Into Action: Our Roots, Our Power.
De nuestras raíces nace nuestra fuerza. En nuestra unidad vive nuestro poder.

SIGNED this 2nd day of September, 2026.

SIGNED:

By: _____
Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SPONSORED BY:

By: Chair Jessica Vega Pederson