

MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. 51

Proclaiming March 2026 as Women's History Month and March 8, 2026 as International Women's Day in Multnomah County, Oregon.

Multnomah County Finds:

- A. For over 100 years, Women's Day has been celebrated around the world to commemorate women's fight for equality and liberation, and give focus to issues such as the right to vote and hold office, equal pay and equal economic opportunity, reproductive rights, and the prevention of violence and abuse against women.
- B. The United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day in 1975. This year's theme, "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls", calls for action to dismantle all barriers to equal justice: discriminatory laws, weak legal protections, and harmful practices and social norms that erode the rights of women and girls.
- C. In 1987, Congress declared March as National Women's History Month in perpetuity. This year's theme, "Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future" celebrates the diverse contributions of women who are leading sustainability efforts across environmental, economic, educational, and social justice movements. Whether developing green technologies, advancing economic justice, strengthening education systems, or building civic power – women are designing blueprints for sustainable transformation and creating a future that is rooted in equity, justice, and opportunity for all.
- D. Despite much social progress, in Multnomah County today, women, regardless of work hours, are still only earning 80 cents to each dollar earned by men. And across Oregon, average monthly earnings for women were lower than men's earnings in every single industry. This is just one example of the disparities that persist locally and urgently need addressing.
- E. Meanwhile, at the national level, the Trump Administration continues to abuse its power to attack and dismantle the rights and protections that women have fought for for generations. The Administration has weakened protections for women in the workplace, undone affirmative action programs and DEI practices, cut healthcare coverage, and reduced or froze funding to reproductive health clinics, women's health research, SNAP benefits, the Head Start program, and more.
- F. Multnomah County recognizes the harm that these actions will have on all women, but in particular, women who have intersecting identities.
- G. For example, regardless of socioeconomic status, Black women and birthing individuals in the United States are three times more likely to die from pregnancy than their white counterparts.
- H. With the increased attacks on immigrants, migrant women are more likely to be targeted and victimized, and those numbers have increased due to the state of immigration enforcement. Many are trying to maintain their families while a loved one is being detained.

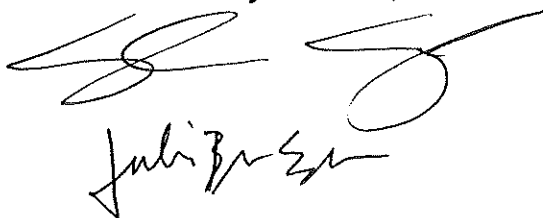
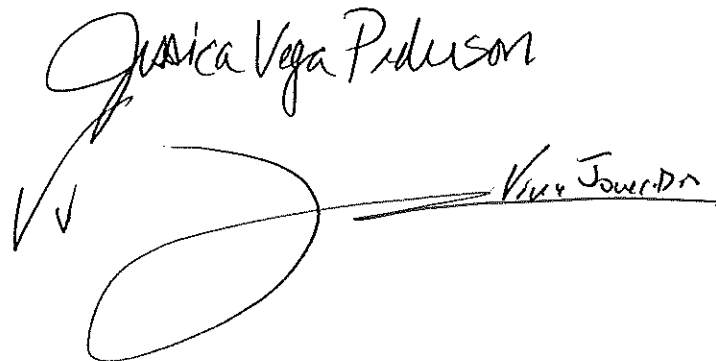
- I. Trans women are also experiencing higher rates of disparities due to their intersectionality. Trans women are facing housing, workplace, and healthcare discrimination. Multnomah County affirms that Trans women are women.
- J. In light of these attacks, Multnomah County reaffirms its commitment to delivering and enacting programs, policies, and services that advance women's rights and liberation.
- K. Multnomah County recognizes the invaluable contributions of women in our community, who have made and continue to make significant contributions to our economic, cultural, social, educational, political, artistic and scientific advancement, despite historical and current inequities.
- L. Multnomah County celebrates the contributions of the thousands of women in our workforce, and those who are serving in leadership positions, including on the Board of County Commissioners.
- M. To honor this year's theme of "Women Shaping a Sustainable Future," Multnomah County further recognizes the efforts of the women in the Office of Sustainability: Monique Smiley, Silvia Tanner, and Jillian Hughes – whose work helps to ensure the Climate Justice Plan and the County's Climate goals are embedded within our core services. Their work, alongside the countless contributions of women throughout the current Multnomah County enterprise, is helping to create a more sustainable future for our organization.
- N. Multnomah County further recognizes the women who serve and have served on our Advisory Committee on Sustainability & Innovation, and honors the long legacy of women leaders who set the course of making Multnomah County a place that celebrates, promotes, and actively works towards a sustainable future for all County residents.
- O. Multnomah County will continue to fight for equal rights and justice for all women and girls in our community.

Multnomah County Proclaims:

March 2026 as Women's History Month in Multnomah County, Oregon, in recognition and celebration of the contributions of women to our community.

March 8th 2026 as International Women's Day in Multnomah County, Oregon in recognition and celebration of the contributions of women all over the globe.

SIGNED this 4th day of March, 2026.

REVIEWED:
 JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
 FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By: 

Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney
 SUBMITTED BY: An Bui, Chair's Office