

Proclamation

Board of Commissioners for Washington County

A PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

September 15, 2023, through October 15, 2023

WHEREAS, each year, the United States observes National Hispanic Heritage Month by celebrating the culture, heritage and countless contributions of those whose ancestors were indigenous to North America including Mexico, as well as those who came from Central America, South America, Spain, and the Caribbean; and

WHEREAS, what began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Johnson was expanded by President Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15; and

WHEREAS, the date September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for the Latin American countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Additionally, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme, "**Latinos: Driving Prosperity, Power, and Progress in America.**" encourages us all to connect with our Hispanic heritage and focus on the themes of prosperity, power, and progress, recognizing the significant strides of Hispanics in the economic, political, and social growth of the U.S.

WHEREAS, we recognize and honor the many ways that Hispanics have enriched the fabric of our society and we rededicate ourselves to address the lack of equal access to opportunity that many still face; and

WHEREAS, the Hispanic population of the United States is now 62.1 million, constituting 18.7% of the total population; and

WHEREAS, in Washington County, the Hispanic population is now 107,642, constituting approximately 17.9% of our total population, with the median age of 24. This represents \$3 billion in economic purchasing power in the state of Oregon and 6,300 businesses owned statewide; and

WHEREAS, in Washington County, the Hispanic population represents a wide range of nationalities and backgrounds, all of whom make a positive contribution to educational, non-profit, government and business sectors which reflect the remarkable diversity of the American people; and

WHEREAS, Washington County Hispanic employees comprise 12% of our workforce, delivering services and providing leadership in ALL departments throughout the county. The longest serving Hispanic staff member has contributed 35 years of continuous service to Washington County; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month is an incredible opportunity to speak with one voice, acknowledge the crucial role that Hispanics play in shaping the future of our country and the world, and to celebrate and recognize Latinos as employees, suppliers, consumers, and community. Hispanics need to be seen, heard, and valued and are more likely to engage with individuals or organizations that actively invest in and celebrate their contributions to America, which are driving prosperity, power, and progress.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on this 5th day of September 2023, the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim September 15th – October 15th, 2023, as Hispanic Heritage Month and

encourage all residents to celebrate our unique and vibrant history and recommit ourselves to a shared future of healthy, peaceful, safe and sustainable communities for all.



Kathryn Harrington

Kathryn Harrington,
Washington County Board Chair

Kevin Mox

Recording Secretary

23-220

Minute Order