



PROCLAMATION

International Transgender Day of Visibility 2026

WHEREAS, International Transgender Day of Visibility, observed annually on March 31, affirms the dignity and visibility of transgender, Two-Spirit, non-binary, intersex, and gender-diverse people, and celebrates their right to live openly, safely, and authentically; and

Whereas, it is estimated that at least 2.8 million people in the United States identify as transgender, demonstrating that transgender, non-binary, and gender-expansive individuals are valued and integral members of every community; and

WHEREAS, International Transgender Day of Visibility was established in 2009 by Rachel Crandall to affirm the lives of transgender people in response to widespread discrimination and erasure, creating space to honor living transgender people through visibility, and to recognize their presence across cultures, generations, and communities, including the joy, creativity, care, and resilience that shape their lives; and

WHEREAS, transgender people have long been part of our shared history, and many have been leaders, advocates, artists, and innovators who have strengthened communities and advanced justice, even when denied recognition or protection; and

WHEREAS, within Illinois and across the nation, transgender and gender-diverse people are neighbors, family members, students, workers, parents, elders, and community members whose lives and stories contribute to the richness of our shared community; and

WHEREAS, transgender communities, particularly transgender women of color, continue to face disproportionate discrimination, economic hardship, violence, and efforts to restrict their rights and access to services, underscoring the ongoing need for affirmation, protection, and equity; and

WHEREAS, while meaningful progress has been made toward greater recognition and inclusion, visibility alone is not sufficient to ensure equality, dignity, and safety for all; and

WHEREAS, the rights, safety, and lives of transgender people continue to face serious threats, underscoring the urgent need for education, advocacy, and solidarity; and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois has affirmed civil rights protections for transgender people, reflecting shared values of dignity, inclusion, and respect, and Joliet Township Government affirms our commitment to uplifting the visibility of transgender people, celebrating their existence, and confronting disinformation, discrimination, and hate that harm members of the trans community. We honor and celebrate the joy, resilience, and contributions of transgender and non-binary people everywhere by elevating their voices and experiences;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Board of Joliet Township Government hereby proclaims **March 31, 2026, as International Transgender Day of Visibility** in Joliet Township, and encourages all residents to take meaningful action in support of transgender and non-binary community members — from simple, everyday acts of respect, such as using a person's chosen name and pronouns; to engaging in community learning about the issues impacting transgender people and participating in LGBTQ+ events; to advocating for policies and practices that advance equity, protect rights, and ensure the safety and well-being of transgender individuals in our community.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that we stand united in our commitment to fostering a community where all people are treated with dignity, respect, and equal opportunity to thrive.

ADOPTED this 10th day of March of 2026.

ATTEST:



Kendra Landfair, Township Clerk



Cesar Guerrero, Township Supervisor