

## PROCLAMATION

### Women's History Month 2026

**WHEREAS**, Women's History Month, first recognized nationally in March 1987, honors the lives, labor, resilience, and contributions of women. The National Women's History Alliance has designated the 2026 Women's History Month theme as "Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future," which honors the women who have and are reimagining and rebuilding systems to ensure long-term sustainability; and

**WHEREAS**, women organized across communities and backgrounds to demand political voice and representation, insisting not only on the right to vote but also on the right to seek office, shape public decisions, and participate fully in democracy, understanding that women's political power strengthens fairness and opportunity for society as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, Illinois has played a pivotal role in the women's rights movement, from early suffrage organizing and the formation of statewide advocacy groups, to women serving in local offices and winning partial suffrage in 1913, becoming the first state east of the Mississippi River to allow women to vote in presidential elections, ultimately culminating in Illinois becoming the first state to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment in 1919 and the founding of the League of Women Voters in Chicago the following year; and

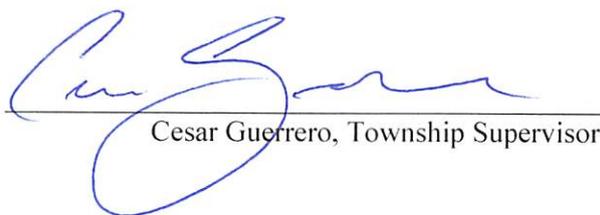
**WHEREAS**, women of color, women with disabilities, immigrant women, LGBT+ women, and poor and working-class women, though frequently excluded from early women's rights efforts, organized, led and advocated and continue to do so for a more inclusive movement that reflects the experiences of all women; and

**WHEREAS**, historically marginalized women leaders have profoundly shaped and strengthened the broader feminist movement through transformative frameworks such as womanism, Chicana feminism, Indigenous feminism, queer feminism, and decolonial feminism, that center lived experience, challenge systems of inequality and exploitation, and broaden the movement to more fully reflect the realities and leadership of all women; and

**WHEREAS**, women's contributions have too often been overlooked in the teaching and study of history, and this proclamation affirms a commitment to honoring women's stories and advancing gender equity, representation, and opportunity for all women and girls; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Joliet Township Government hereby proclaims March 1, 2026 through March 31, 2026, as Women's History Month in Joliet Township, and encourages all residents to celebrate women in all their diversity, recognize underrepresented voices, honor the work of women shaping a more sustainable, equitable, and inclusive future for generations to come, and observe International Women's Day on March 8 in recognition of the enduring fight for gender equality.

**ADOPTED** this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March of 2026.

  
Cesar Guerrero, Township Supervisor

ATTEST:

  
Kendra Landfair, Township Clerk