



Proclamation

International Day of Democracy 2026

WHEREAS, the International Day of Democracy is observed each year on September 15th to affirm the enduring importance of democracy and to encourage governments, communities, and individuals to strengthen democratic values, institutions, and civic participation; and

WHEREAS, democracy rests on the principle that government derives its legitimacy from the people and that every person should have a meaningful opportunity to participate in the decisions that shape their lives, their communities, and their shared future; and

WHEREAS, a strong democracy is sustained by free and fair elections, the rule of law, individual rights and civil liberties, freedom of expression, access to information, transparency, accountability, and the active participation of the people; and

WHEREAS, democracy extends beyond elections and is more than symbolic. Across the world, there are growing pressures from authoritarianism, disinformation and misinformation, political apathy, and the erosion of civic space that undermines democracy; and

WHEREAS, International Day of Democracy reminds us that democracy is neither guaranteed nor self-sustaining, but must be continually strengthened, defended, and renewed through an ongoing and shared responsibility that calls for civic engagement, informed decision-making, constructive dialogue, and a commitment to safeguarding the rights, dignity, and voices of all people, including those with whom we may disagree; and

WHEREAS, local government serves as a vital and accessible expression of democracy for residents to participate by voting, attending public meetings, communicating with elected officials, learning about issues affecting their communities, and working collectively to shape the future of their neighborhoods; and

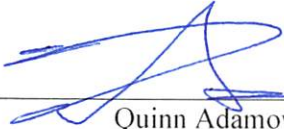
WHEREAS, Joliet Township Government recognizes that democracy is strongest when government is open, accountable, accessible, and responsive to the people it serves; when every member of the community is encouraged to participate, contribute, and have their voice heard; and when it is not controlled or dictated by those with the most wealth, influence, or corporate power; and

WHEREAS, Joliet Township Government reaffirms its commitment to putting these principles of democracy into practice by promoting transparency and accountability in public service; fostering respectful dialogue, civic understanding, and engagement across diverse perspectives; creating meaningful pathways for residents to participate in civic life and have the ability to seek, receive, and share information that is essential for the public to remain informed, engaged, and empowered; and ensuring that every person is welcomed and respected with the opportunity to have their voice heard in the decisions that shape our shared future; and

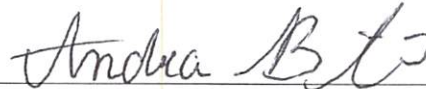
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Joliet Township Board recognizes September 15th, 2026, as **International Day of Democracy** and calls upon all residents to embrace the rights, responsibilities,

and possibilities of civic life; to uphold and strengthen the democratic principles that sustain our community; and to actively participate in building a world where people power is at the center.

ADOPTED this 8th day of September of 2026.



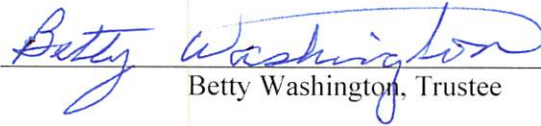
Quinn Adamowski, Trustee



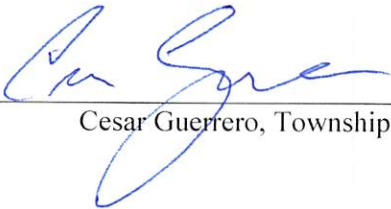
Andrea Bibian, Trustee



Archie Gavin, Trustee

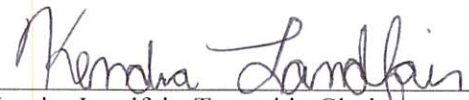


Betty Washington, Trustee



Cesar Guerrero, Township Supervisor

ATTEST:



Kendra Landfair, Township Clerk