

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Board of Commissioners Office

Commissioners
Margaret Magruder
Kellie Jo Smith
Casey Garrett

Administration
Jacyn Normine
Kathy Coddington

Communications
Mark Pacheco



ST. HELENS, OR 97051

230 Strand St., Room 338
Direct (503) 397-4322
Fax (503) 366-7243
columbiacountyor.gov

2026 National Suicide Prevention Month Proclamation for Columbia County, Oregon

WHEREAS, in Oregon, suicide was the 8th leading cause of death in 2024 (National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention);

WHEREAS, the age-adjusted rate for suicide in Oregon rose (20.0 per 100,000) and remains significantly higher than the United States rate (13.7 per 100,000) in 2024 (Oregon Health Authority);

WHEREAS, suicide continues to be the second leading cause of death for people ages 10-14, 15-24, and 25-34, as well as among the top four leading causes of death for people ages 35-44 in 2024 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention);

WHEREAS, in the United States, 48,824 people died by suicide in 2024, which is about one death every 11 minutes (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention);

WHEREAS, in Oregon, 941 people died by suicide in 2024 (Oregon Health Authority);

WHEREAS, it is estimated that more than 5.8 million people in the U.S. are survivors of suicide loss (National Council for Suicide Prevention);

WHEREAS, in 2024, males died by suicide nearly four times more than females (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention);

WHEREAS, firearms accounted for approximately 57% of all suicide deaths in the United States in 2024 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention);

WHEREAS, veterans in Oregon had a suicide rate that was more than double the rate of the general population (Oregon Health Authority);

WHEREAS, in Oregon, rural counties had significantly higher suicide rates than urban counties in 2024 (Oregon Health Authority);

WHEREAS, up to 94% of adults surveyed in the United States think suicide can be prevented at least some of the time (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention);

WHEREAS, Columbia County ranked 16th in suicide deaths among Oregon Counties in 2025;

WHEREAS, suicide is a public health concern that affects many in our community, and if you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or text the 988 Lifeline, a free resource available 24/7/365;

WHEREAS, the Columbia County Board of Commissioners wish to express gratitude for the ongoing efforts and partnerships within Columbia County and reaffirm our commitment to aligning effective suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention strategies, including Columbia Health Services' ASIST and QPR Trainings, Columbia County Public Health's Safe Home Initiative, Columbia Community Mental Health's (CCMH) Crisis Line (503-182-4499), and the Columbia County Medical Examiner/CCMH/Columbia County Chaplain partnership to provide support and post-care intervention to survivors and families during death-related events.

WHEREAS, suicide is preventable,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Columbia County Board of Commissioners, do hereby recognize September as National Suicide Prevention Month and designate September 10, 2026, World Suicide Prevention Day, as Suicide Prevention Day in Columbia County, Oregon.

Dated this 9th day of September 2026, in St. Helens, Oregon.

Kellie Jo Smith, Chair
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner

