

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Board of Commissioners Office

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PROCLAMATION

Recognizing April 2026 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Supporting Survivors of Sexual and Domestic Violence in Columbia County, Oregon

WHEREAS, April is nationally recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), a time dedicated to raising awareness about sexual violence, supporting survivors, and strengthening prevention efforts across our communities; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault and domestic violence remain serious public health and safety issues affecting individuals and families in communities across Oregon, including Columbia County; and

WHEREAS, survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence often face significant physical, emotional, and economic challenges, and require access to compassionate advocacy, confidential support services, and safe housing options; and

WHEREAS, creating a community free from violence requires collaboration among local governments, nonprofit organizations, law enforcement, healthcare providers, educators, and community members; and

WHEREAS, SAFE of Columbia County, the county's dedicated domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy organization, provides critical services including crisis intervention, confidential advocacy, emergency shelter, prevention education, and support for survivors and their families; and

WHEREAS, the advocates, staff, volunteers, and community partners of SAFE of Columbia County work tirelessly to empower survivors, promote healing, and build a safer Columbia County through education, prevention, and community partnerships; and

WHEREAS, recognizing Sexual Assault Awareness Month provides an opportunity for residents, organizations, and leaders to stand in solidarity with survivors and reaffirm our collective commitment to preventing sexual and domestic violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Columbia County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes April 2026 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Columbia County, Oregon, and commends the ongoing work of SAFE of Columbia County and its partners in supporting survivors and strengthening community safety.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Board encourages all residents of Columbia County to support survivors, promote respectful relationships, engage in prevention efforts, and work together to build a community where all individuals can live free from violence and abuse.

DATED this 1st day of April 2026, in St. Helens, Oregon.

Columbia County Board of Commissioners

Kellie Jo Smith, Chair

Casey Garrett, Commissioner

Margaret Magruder, Commissioner