

PROCLAMATION

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

WHEREAS, Down syndrome, also known as Trisomy 21, is a naturally occurring genetic condition caused by a full or partial extra copy of chromosome 21, affecting approximately 1 in 700 babies, or about 6,000 births each year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, individuals with Down syndrome are valued and active members of our community who participate with dignity in educational, occupational, social, and recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, March 21 is recognized worldwide as World Down Syndrome Day, to signify the triplication of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome and to celebrate the lives and contributions of individuals with Down syndrome; and

WHEREAS, 2026 marks the 20th anniversary of World Down Syndrome Day, first internationally observed in 2006 with the support of United Nations officials to promote awareness and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as Champions for Champions promote inclusion, acceptance, and equal opportunity for individuals with Down syndrome and support the **#LotsOfSocks** campaign, which encourages our community to wear bright or mismatched socks to raise awareness and amplify their voices;

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in us do hereby proclaim that **March 21, 2026** be known as

“WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY”

DULY PROCLAIMED this 17th day of **March, 2026**.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA**

CARL ZALAK, III, CHAIRMAN

MATT MCCLAIN, VICE CHAIR

KATHY BRYANT, COMMISSIONER

MICHELLE STONE, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

GREGORY C. HARRELL, CLERK

CRAIG CURRY, COMMISSIONER