

PROCLAMATION

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

WHEREAS, Men’s Health Month is observed throughout June to raise awareness and educate men, boys, and their families about the importance of regular health screenings, preventive care, addressing mental health concerns, and promoting healthier lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, men die, on average, six years earlier than women due to preventable health issues, and suicide rates among men are significantly higher, yet mental health initiatives often fail to offer interventions that effectively resonate with men; and

WHEREAS, the growing epidemic of substance abuse underscores the need to raise awareness of unrecognized and undiagnosed depression and mental stress among boys and men; and

WHEREAS, Men's Health Month provides an opportunity for the public to acknowledge the mental and physical health needs of men and boys, while encouraging fathers to be role models by engaging in preventive health screenings, living healthy lifestyles, and seeking help when needed; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Men’s Health Month theme is centered on closing the “**Empathy Gap**”, a pattern of neglect toward men’s and boys’ health challenges that often results in fewer resources, delayed care, and limited awareness and support for their health, education, and emotional well-being;

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in us do hereby proclaim that **June 2025** be known as

“MEN’S HEALTH MONTH”

DULY PROCLAIMED this 3rd day of **June, 2025**.

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

KATHY BRYANT, CHAIRMAN

CARL ZALAK, III, VICE CHAIR

MICHELLE STONE, COMMISSIONER

CRAIG CURRY, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

GREGORY C. HARRELL, CLERK

MATT MCCLAIN, COMMISSIONER