



**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE
STATE OF OREGON, FOR THE COUNTY OF BENTON**

In the Matter of Proclaiming July 26, 2024)
As Americans with Disabilities Act)
Awareness Day in Benton County) **Proclamation No. P2024-016**

On July 26, 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), affirming our nation’s commitment to eliminating discrimination against people with disabilities and stating, “Let the shameful walls of exclusion finally come tumbling down.”

The ADA was the world’s first comprehensive declaration of equality for persons with disabilities and covers approximately one in five Americans. Most people will experience disability at some point in their lives. Disability also impacts all intersectional identities. Ableism and stigma further harms marginalized and historically excluded communities, including people of color, 2SLGBTQI+ people, veterans, immigrants, people in recovery, and houseless individuals. Our work for access and inclusion must include all community members with disabilities.

Disabled people and the families and loved ones that have been their advocates for equality have contributed significantly to our nation’s advancement and protection. Some leaders include Temple Grandin, Nyle DiMarco, Judith Heumann, Helen Keller, and Leroy F. Moore Jr. We cannot forget that our local leaders and advocates for disability rights help ensure our community improves services and access for all.

Among many other organizations in Benton County, the Benton County Special Transportation Program, [Benton Area Transit (BAT)], and the Benton County Developmental Diversity Program, along with their Advisory Committees, together serve over a thousand residents with visual, auditory, physical, mental, emotional, cognitive, and developmental disabilities by assisting them with residence, work, school, medical treatment, therapy, shopping, and social activities.


While we celebrate the 34th Anniversary of the ADA and what has been achieved, we also recognize that the full promise of the ADA can only be reached if we remain committed to continuing our efforts to achieve full implementation of the goals of the ADA. We commit to increase community collaboration, seek feedback, train staff, and implement procedures and practices that meet and exceed ADA expectations to ensure everyone with disabilities in Benton County can live, work, learn, and thrive.

THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that July 26, 2024 as “Americans With Disabilities Act Awareness Day” in Benton County, celebrating the 34th Anniversary of the ADA and encouraging community members to join in this observance.

Adopted this 16th day of July, 2024.

Signed this 16th day of July, 2024.

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS



Xanthippe Augerot, Chair



Nancy Wyse, Vice Chair



Pat Malone, Commissioner