



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

In the Matter of Proclaiming)	
September 15 to October 15)	PROCLAMATION P2024-018
Hispanic Heritage Month)	
in Benton County)	

During National Hispanic American Heritage Month, we pause to celebrate the immeasurable contributions Hispanic and Latinx individuals have made to our Nation.

The history of Hispanic and Latinx people in the U.S. predates the founding of our nation, with roots in the land as indigenous people that make up its cultural and linguistic diversity and as explorers and conquerors, seeking to expand Spain’s dominion. The Spanish West became part of Mexico with its independence in 1821, and then part of the United States in 1848. American Hispanic communities are a rich mix of indigenous, Mexican and Spanish cultures that have contributed to the fabric of this country. Hispanic and Latinx communities trace their heritage back to Indigenous, European, and African roots in Spain, North America, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.

The earliest documented Hispanic Oregonians were vaqueros and mule packers, supporting trade up and down the west coast. By the 1920s and 1930s, most Mexicans and Mexican Americans worked in agriculture. They were the first to lose their jobs during the Depression, and around 500,000 were subjected to forced repatriation to Mexico. Despite these and more recent systemic challenges, Hispanic and Latinx people persevere and flourish in every sector of our society. With the passage of the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act and civil wars from Cuba to El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala, the United States Hispanic community become increasingly diverse. In accordance with the national theme “*Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together,*” Benton County’s observance celebrates the achievements, histories, traditions cultural diversity, and the social, political, and cultural contributions made by Hispanic/Latinx Americans.

This month, we honor the spirit of innovation, resilience, and community that define the Hispanic and Latinx experience. The theme recognizes all Hispanic and Latinx Americans who have been trailblazers, social justice activists, and game changers who have paved the way for future generations. Trailblazers such as Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, José M. Hernández, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Sonia Sotomayor, and many others defied social norms and systemic barriers and cleared the path for future community leaders. They help us understand there are no boundaries to what we can overcome, what we can do, and what we can offer to the world.

Hispanic and Latinx American Heritage Month is an incredible opportunity to speak with one voice and to acknowledge the crucial role Hispanic and Latinx people continue to play in shaping the future of our country and the world. We celebrate and recognize Hispanic and Latinx Americans as undeniable change agents and positive contributors to our country and local communities.

In reflecting on our Nation's rich Hispanic and Latinx heritage, let us take pride in our unique and vibrant history, and recommit to a shared future of freedom, power, prosperity, and opportunity for all.

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY PROCLAIMED that September 15 to October 15, 2024, is Hispanic-American Heritage Month.

Adopted this 1st day of October, 2024.

Signed this 1st day of October, 2024.

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Xanthippe Augerot, Chair

Nancy Wyse, Vice Chair

Pat Malone, Commissioner