



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **HONORING MARCH AS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, Women's History Month is celebrated yearly from March 1 to March 31; and

**WHEREAS**, Women's History Month is dedicated to reflecting the contributions of women to the United States (U.S) history; and

**WHEREAS**, Women's History Month has its origin as Women's History Week, which was organized by the school district of Sonoma, California, in 1978; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8th as National Women's History Week, and the following year it was passed by the U.S Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1987, the National Women's History Project (NWHP), now known as the National Women's History Alliance (NWHHA), a not-for-profit organization founded to promote multicultural women's history awareness, successfully petitioned to have Congress expand the recognition to the entire month of March; and

**WHEREAS**, since then, other countries have joined the U.S in honoring women and their contributions to history and culture; and

**WHEREAS**, for many years, women have faced different types of oppression; it wasn't until the 19th Amendment was passed that women were granted the right to vote; in the 1900s, all states followed the New York Married Women's Property Act (1848) which allowed women to gain property rights; even then, women were not allowed to apply for a credit card until the Equal Credit Opportunity Act was passed in 1974; and

**WHEREAS**, women have made countless contributions to the civil rights movement, human rights advancements, and many other developments in our nation. Women also played a crucial role to inventions such as feeding tubes, dishwashers, central heating, electric refrigerators, call waiting & caller ID, windshield wipers, home security systems, and many more; and

**WHEREAS**, women's rights continue to face attacks, further deepening inequalities; and

**WHEREAS**, Black, Latina, and LGBTQ women of color have experienced greater discrimination and disparities throughout our history; women of color still see greater wage and economic gaps, health disparities, maternal morbidity & mortality rates, and access to education opportunities compared to white women; and

**WHEREAS**, each year the National Women's History Alliance chooses a theme for Women's History Month. This year's theme is "Women who advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion"; and

**WHEREAS**, this theme recognizes women throughout the country who understand that for a positive future, we need to eliminate bias and discrimination from our lives and institutions; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County honors all women who have shaped our history, set records, changed the face of politics, and

established a firm place for women in society.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cook County Board of Commissioners recognizes March as Women's History Month and applauds the work of all women in this great County.