



WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCLAMATION

Recognizing 36th Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act

WHEREAS, on July 26, 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), establishing a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities and ensuring their civil rights; and

WHEREAS, July 26, 2026, marks the 36th anniversary of the ADA, a landmark civil rights law that has expanded opportunities for Americans with disabilities by reducing barriers, changing perceptions, and increasing participation in community life; and

WHEREAS, in Wake County, North Carolina, approximately 9 percent of the population, or roughly 110,000 residents, live with a disability, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau; and

WHEREAS, the Census Bureau further reports that approximately 6.3 percent of Wake County residents under the age of 65 have a disability; and

WHEREAS, despite significant progress since the passage of the ADA, barriers to employment, transportation, housing, healthcare, education, and community participation continue to affect many individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the unemployment rate for people with disabilities was 7.5 percent, compared to 3.8 percent for people without disabilities, demonstrating the continued need for equal opportunity and accessibility; and

WHEREAS, Wake County is committed to promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility by ensuring equal opportunities for all residents to live, learn, work, and participate fully in community life while supporting the rights, independence, and dignity of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the anniversary of the ADA provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of people with disabilities, recognize the progress made since the law's enactment, and reaffirm our commitment to advancing accessibility, inclusion, and equal opportunity for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wake County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes and celebrates the **36th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act**, and encourages all residents to honor the

contributions of individuals with disabilities, reflect on the progress achieved through the ADA, and recommit to the ongoing work of ensuring full inclusion, accessibility, and equal opportunity for all.

ADOPTED this the 6th day of July 2026.

Donald Mial, Chair
Wake County Board of Commissioners