

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Proclamation

PROCLAIMING MAY 2025 AS
OLDER AMERICANS MONTH IN THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

WHEREAS, as of 2023, 26.6% of Santa Cruz County's population, approximately 69,563 of residents, were aged 60 or older, and by 2030 it is estimated that 30 percent of the county population will be over the age of 60; and

WHEREAS, older adults of every race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, immigration status, ability, and economic background contribute their strength, wisdom, and experience to our community, and fulfill many roles including caregivers, community leaders, and volunteers; and

WHEREAS, our entire county benefits when people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds are welcomed, included, and supported; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Cruz recognizes our need to create a community that provides the services that support older Americans' ability to stay involved in their communities-reflecting our commitment to inclusivity and connectedness; and

WHEREAS, today there is a system of collaboration among the County of Santa Cruz (County) Human Services Department's Adult & Long-Term Care Division, Seniors Council (Area Agency on Aging), local municipalities, and many community services partners that serve and advocate for the needs of older adults, and the County is committed to building an even better community for our older residents by creating and promoting a livable community for all residents, creating equitable and inclusive systems and programs, and increasing access to services that support healthy aging in place; and

WHEREAS, the national theme for Older Americans Month 2025 is "Flip the Script on Aging" with a focus on transforming how society perceives, talks about, and approaches aging, so as to encourage individuals and communities to challenge stereotypes, dispel misconceptions and positively impact meaningful interactions and social connection of older adults in our community; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the County successfully earned its first "Age-Friendly Community" designation by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) as part of our ongoing county-wide Network of Age-Friendly Communities initiative, leveraging our commitment to engaging older adults in developing a blueprint for strategies and partnerships that promote healthy aging for all as part of the County's current and ongoing efforts to develop a local Master Plan for Aging, in partnership with the Seniors Council and local cities within the county.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Felipe Hernandez, Chair of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, hereby proclaim the month of May 2025 to be Older Americans Month in the County of Santa Cruz, and, call upon all residents to join me in recognizing the contributions of our older citizens and in promoting programs and activities that foster connection, inclusion, and support for older adults.




Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

April 29, 2025

Date