

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS LINDSEY P. HORVATH
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Proclaiming May 22 as Harvey Milk Day in Los Angeles County

Harvey Milk was a prominent gay activist who eventually became the first openly gay person elected to office in California.

After living in New York through the counterculture movement of the 1960s, Milk moved to San Francisco’s Castro neighborhood, which at the time was experiencing a mass migration of gays and lesbians. Though he faced resistance from San Francisco’s political establishment, he began running for office in 1973 and often dubbed himself the “Mayor of Castro Street.” After becoming a political leader with growing popularity for battling anti-gay initiatives and after the City of San Francisco reorganized its election procedures to choose representatives from neighborhoods rather than city-wide, Milk was elected to represent the 5th District on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors on in 1977.

During his short time in office, Milk sponsored an ordinance banning discrimination in public accommodations, housing, and employment on the basis of sexual orientation, which was successfully signed into law by Mayor George Moscone. Less than a year after serving in office, Milk was assassinated alongside Moscone by Dan White, a fellow San Francisco Supervisor who cast the sole vote against Milk’s anti-discrimination ordinance.

MOTION

SOLIS _____

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To this day, Harvey Milk is remembered as an iconic figure in the fight for LGBTQ+ rights, exemplifying courage, resilience, and an unwavering dedication to equality. His election in San Francisco paved the way for progress in LGBTQ+ rights, representation, and visibility not only in California but throughout the country. His 1978 assassination further galvanized the gay rights movement, inspiring countless individuals to stand up, speak out, and work towards a more inclusive society.

Initially organized by the Harvey Milk Foundation, Harvey Milk Day is celebrated on May 22 annually (Milk's birthday) by the State of California as a day to remember and teach about Milk's life and his work to stop LGBTQ+ discrimination. In 2009, Milk posthumously received the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama. His campaign manager and co-founder of the Harvey Milk Foundation Anne Kronenberg wrote of Milk: "What set Harvey apart from you or me was that he was a visionary. He imagined a righteous world inside his head and then he set about to create it for real, for all of us."

On May 22, the City of West Hollywood, in partnership with the Third District of Los Angeles County and the Imperial Court, will host a [celebration](#) of Harvey Milk Day, featuring the José Sarria Drag Pageant.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

Proclaim May 22 of each year as Harvey Milk Day in Los Angeles County beginning in 2024.

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