

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HOLLY J. MITCHELL AND
JANICE HAHN**

June 25, 2024

**SUPPORTING BREAST CANCER AWARENESS AND MAKING STRIDES AGAINST
BREAST CANCER OF LOS ANGELES EVENT**

In the United States (U.S.), breast cancer is the second most common cancer, with 1 in 8 women being diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime.¹ Breast cancer is also the second most common cause of cancer death for women in the U.S.² Among women ages 20-49, breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death, and second only to lung cancer death in women over 50. Across racial and ethnic groups, incidence is highest in White and Black women, with mortality rates highest in Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, and White women. In Los Angeles County (County), breast cancer was the 8th leading cause of death among women, and the 3rd leading cause of premature death, before age 75, among women in 2022.³ Death rates from breast cancer have been declining in the U.S. for about 30 years, but nationally, compared to White women, there is a persistent mortality gap between Black women, who have a 41% higher breast

¹ <https://www.cancer.gov/types/breast/risk-fact-sheet>

² Siegel, R. L., Giaquinto, A. N., & Jemal, A. (2024). Cancer Statistics, 2024. CA: a cancer journal for clinicians, 74(1), 12-49.

³ Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Office of Health Assessment and Epidemiology.

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cancer mortality rate, despite having 4% lower incidence.^{1,4}

In April 2024, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), which makes evidence-based recommendations for preventive health services in primary care settings, updated its guidance for breast cancer screening. USPSTF now recommends that women get screened for breast cancer every other year starting at age 40 and continuing through age 74. The change in the USPSTF recommendation reflects a small but significant increase in new breast cancer cases in young women since 2015 and aims to address the disparate death rates among Black women by identifying more younger women early in the disease process, when cancer can be successfully treated. It remains critical for the County to better address inequities among our own diverse populations, starting with efforts to ensure younger women throughout the County know they can now access free or low-cost mammography services.

To raise awareness, celebrate courage and unite the County, the American Cancer Society (ACS) will be hosting the 2024 *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Los Angeles* event in person at The Citadel Outlets, 100 Citadel Dr, Commerce, CA 90040, on Saturday, October 19, 2024. This non-competitive, 3-mile outdoor walk supports breast cancer research and critical programs for patients and their families. It also provides funding for prevention and early detection of breast cancer, as well as funding to help accelerate new innovations in treatment for cancer. The event is open to the community with no registration fee and is an opportunity for families to improve their health with physical activity while also helping in the fight against breast cancer. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's Office of Women's Health has coordinated Breast Cancer walks and fundraising efforts since 2000. This year's walk offers an opportunity to come together to support breast cancer survivors and their families, to raise money for critical support programs and to accelerate research into new treatments. The ACS's "I Love You Get Screened" campaign aims to improve cancer screening for all

⁴ US Preventive Services Task Force. Screening for Breast Cancer: US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement. *JAMA*. Published online April 30, 2024. doi:10.1001/jama.2024.5534

communities as breast cancer screening saves lives.

ACS's *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Los Angeles* event supports the goals of this Board to improve the health of all County residents by encouraging physical exercise and healthy living. This event will advance health equity around this leading cause of cancer death in women, by building awareness through information sharing on the importance of preventive screening, and better understanding risk factors.

WE THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Proclaim the month of October 2024 as "Breast Cancer Awareness Month" to encourage prevention and early detection of breast cancer, as well as support for breast cancer patients and survivors.
2. Direct County departments to support the *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Los Angeles* event on Saturday, October 19, 2024, by registering to participate in support of fundraising efforts.
3. Direct the Department of Public Health and the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to promote the above event on social media and to develop easy-to-understand graphics and guidance on preventive screenings (noting the change in screening guidelines to increase mammography uptake among younger women).
4. Direct DMH to share and highlight online tools such as the American Cancer Society's "Reach to Recovery" website and app to provide mental health support to women diagnosed with breast cancer.
5. Direct the County Department Public Information Officers to promote and distribute materials related to the *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Los Angeles* event; promote the American Cancer Society's "I Love You Get Screened" campaign to improve screening for all communities; and promote the American Cancer Society's 24/7 Cancer Helpline, at 1-800-227-2345.
6. Direct all County Departments' wellness coordinators to promote the 2024 *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Los Angeles* event and encourage colleagues to participate in support of the event.

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