

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

September 30, 2025

Proclaim October 2025 LGBTQ+ History Month and Declare October 11 as National Coming Out Day

LGBTQ+ History Month began in 1994 by high school history teacher Rodney Wilson, the first openly gay public high school teacher in Missouri. It was originally known as Lesbian and Gay History Month. It is intended to encourage honesty and openness about being LGBTQ+ and to develop a sense of belonging and empowerment for the community. October was chosen to coincide with National Coming Out Day on October 11th and to commemorate the first and second marches on Washington for LGBTQ+ rights, which took place in 1979 and 1987.

Los Angeles County has made its mark in LGBTQ+ history. In 1914, two men were arrested during a raid of the 606 Club and 96 Club, two gay clubs in Long Beach. The raids garnered wide press – especially after one of the victims of the raid later took his own life. In the 1950s gay bars like The Parch and gay societies like the Daughters of Bilitis, Satyrs Motorcycle Club, and The Mattachine Society offered a way for LGBTQ people to gather farther away from the threat of police raids.

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LA Pride, one of the largest LGBTQ Pride events in the world, was the world's first permitted day parade. The parade, organized by Christopher Street West on June 28, 1970, was a commemoration of the Stonewall uprising on Christopher Street in New York City the year prior.

The first Long Beach Pride parade was held in 1984 and lasted only thirty minutes despite drawing thousands of spectators. Judi Doyle, the Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade President, was threatened with violence before the 1985 parade. Today, the Long Beach Pride Parade is now the third largest Pride festival and parade in California.

Los Angeles LGBTQ+ activists stood up and fought back against police brutality at the Black Cat Café in Silverlake in 1967, which preceded the Stonewall uprising by two years. Activism and protest continued in Los Angeles City and County, from petition drives and fundraisers at "Ginger Rogers Beach," the historically LGBTQ+ friendly portion of Will Rogers State Beach, to the eventual founding of the City of West Hollywood in 1984, which brought together renters, Russian-speaking immigrants, and the LGBTQ+ community to create a self-determined, progressive city. The HIV/AIDS crisis of the 1980s galvanized an entire generation of LGBTQ+ people, and created a movement that led to marriage equality, among many other fundamental rights, such as the right to family and the right to healthcare.

The LGBTQ+ community has also produced its share of history makers, including Harvey Milk, who was assassinated for his political activism and sexuality, Sheila Kuehl, former California State Assemblymember and Los Angeles County Supervisor, who was the first openly-gay state legislator and later member of the County Board of Supervisors,

Jeffrey Prang, former West Hollywood Mayor and current Los Angeles County Assessor, Robert Garcia, the first immigrant, the first Latino and the first LGBTQ mayor in Long Beach history and the first LGBTQ immigrant to serve in Congress, Laphonza Butler, who was appointed to the United States Senate in 2023 and became the first Black out lesbian in Congress, the first openly LGBTQ member of the United States Senate from California, and its first out Black LGBTQ+ member, and Mario Trujillo, the first openly gay Mayor of Downey.

Celebrating LGBTQ+ History Month is about recognizing the contributions of the LGBTQ+ community to Los Angeles and to the country. While we have come a long way since Stonewall, there are still efforts to erase history, ban same-sex marriages, and ban LGBTQ+ curriculum.

Now more than ever, with federal attacks against LGBTQ+ people and the attempts to erase LGBTQ+ history from the Smithsonian, National Parks, and other federally run institutions, it is critical that Los Angeles County celebrate and recognize the many contributions of the LGBTQ+ community this month and all year long.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim the month of October 2025, as LGBTQ+ History Month in Los Angeles County;
2. Proclaim October 11, 2025, as National Coming Out Day in Los Angeles County;
3. Instruct the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office to work with the Los Angeles County Public Library and Department of Arts and Culture to uplift and

encourage attendance to One Institute's LGBTQ+ History Festival, CIRCA, happening during the month of October, or LGBTQ+ History Month; and

4. Instruct the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office – Countywide Communications along with all County departments, and request that the Sheriff, District Attorney, Assessor, and Superintendent of the Los Angeles County Office of Education, to work with the Los Angeles County Public Library and Department of Arts and Culture in promotion and sponsoring their LGBTQ+ History Month related events, programs, and resources, including on respective websites and social media platforms.

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