

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

Proclaiming March 2026 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Colon Cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer death for men and women combined. While often thought as a disease only affecting older people, the faces of Colon Cancer diagnoses are changing, steadily increasing in young people, Colon Cancer is now the leading cancer death for men under 50¹ and on track to become the number one cancer killer of all people ages 20-49². According to the American Cancer Society, colon cancer does not affect all Americans equally. The incidence rate is highest among American Indian and Alaska native individuals followed by non-Hispanic black individuals. Additionally, colon cancer is expected to account for of cancer deaths of 12% of Hispanic men and 9% of Hispanic women³.

Colon Cancers is unique, where in detecting early through screening, it can be prevented or effectively treated. If identified at an early stage, the 5-year survival rate is 91% vs. 16% at later stages⁴. Unfortunately, lower rates of routine cancer screenings lead to delayed diagnosis and increased cancer death. Despite the availability of various screening modalities for average-risk patients, far too many Americans are not getting

¹ [Colorectal Cancer Facts & Figures 2023](#)

² [Estimated Projection of US Cancer Incidence and Death to 2040 | Oncology | JAMA Network Open | JAMA Network](#)

³ [Cancer Facts & Figures for Hispanic/Latino People 2024-2026](#)

⁴ [Colorectal Cancer — Cancer Stat Facts](#)

MOTION

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screened.

An estimate of tens of thousands of colon cancer deaths could be avoided if screened appropriately. The national goal, established by the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable, is to increase timely colon cancer screening rates to 80% in all communities to have fair and just access for those eligible for screenings. Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month provides the opportunity to increase awareness and education on the importance of early detection and screening of colorectal cancer.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim the month of March 2026 as “Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month” to encourage prevention and early detection, as well as support patients and their families who have been impacted by this cancer.

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JH:cc