

PROCLAMATION

MISSOULA COUNTY AND THE CITY OF MISSOULA, MONTANA

WHEREAS, Montana has the second highest suicide rate in the nation and has ranked among the top five states with the highest rates of suicide for the past four decades;ⁱ and

WHEREAS, suicide is a community-wide problem, and suicide prevention requires a community effort; and

WHEREAS, since 2018, Missoula County has had an average of 28 deaths due to suicide per year,^{ii,iii} and

WHEREAS, suicide by firearm accounts for 55% of all suicides in the US, 67% of all suicides in Montana, and 71% of all suicides in Missoula County, and safe storage of firearms is known to reduce the risk of death by suicide;ⁱⁱⁱ and

WHEREAS, it is important to support the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (988) Call Center here in Missoula, along with our mobile response units, who can effectively and empathetically intervene in crisis situations; and

WHEREAS, our community will support suicide prevention efforts to the maximum extent possible, including promoting free gun locks and other safety materials available from Missoula Public Health, and initiatives like Project Tomorrow Montana, which uses educational programs and evidence-based policy to work to reduce Missoula County suicide deaths and attempts.

NOW THEREFORE, in coordination with National Suicide Prevention Week, we, the Missoula Board of County Commissioners, and Andrea Davis, Mayor of the City of Missoula, Montana, do hereby recognize the week of September 7-13, 2025, as

SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

MAYOR
CITY OF MISSOULA

Andrea Davis, Mayor

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MISSOULA COUNTY

Juanita Vero, Chair


Josh Sletnick, Commissioner


Dave Strohmaier, Commissioner

ⁱ Data Source: CDC Wonder, 2023

^{ii,iii} Data Source: Montana DPHHS Injury and Overdose Indicators Dashboard, 2024

ⁱⁱⁱ Data Source: CDC Wonder, 2023, and Montana DPHHS Injury and Overdose Indicators Dashboard, 2024