

Proclamation

AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH APRIL 2026

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), a complex, lifelong developmental condition, is the fastest-growing developmental disability in the United States, impacting a vast majority of Americans either through relationships or direct experience; and

WHEREAS, support needs across the autism spectrum are vastly diverse and each individual with autism experiences it differently, but together, autistic people make industries, communities, and our nation stronger; and

WHEREAS, despite this, autistic people continue to face obstacles when seeking employment, health care, education and housing, and the immense contributions of people with autism are often overlooked; and

WHEREAS, Autism Acceptance Month not only honors the contributions of people on the autism spectrum and the autism community to our nation and the world, but also calls on all of us to work together toward fostering greater awareness, understanding and inclusion, thus creating a world where everyone in the autism community is connected to the support they need, when they need it; and

WHEREAS, autism acceptance means respecting the rights and humanity of all autistic people, centering the perspectives and needs of autistic people with intellectual disabilities, non-speaking autistic people, and autistic people with the highest support needs — not by speaking over them, but by listening and looking to them as leaders; and

WHEREAS, autism acceptance also means recognizing the ways ableism and racism interact in our society, following the leadership of autistic people of color, and making anti-racism a core part of the work that we all must do to promote safety and acceptance for every member of our community; and

WHEREAS, we must move beyond acceptance — to representation, celebration, and liberation, learning more about the experiences of autistic people from autistic people, and building more welcoming and inclusive communities to support people with autism; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Betsy Nash, Mayor of the City of Menlo Park, on behalf of the City Council and City, do hereby proclaim and celebrate April 2026 as Autism Acceptance Month in Menlo Park.

Betsy Nash, Mayor
March 24, 2026