

LEON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 21-

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA,
CONDEMNING HATE AND EXTREMISM AS REQUESTED
BY THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF FLORIDA
AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Leon County Government is committed to defending democratic institutions, the integrity of our elections, and the security of people and facilities that carry out the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, Leon County Government is committed to ending the spread of hate, bigotry, and harassment based on race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, sex, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, or any other protected characteristic as defined by law; and

WHEREAS, Leon County Government wishes to affirm its commitment to the well-being and safety of all of its community members and to ensure that they will be protected and their rights respected; and

WHEREAS, Leon County Government wishes to affirm its commitment to cultivating an inclusive community, including within and operations and institutions; and

WHEREAS, the diversity of our community is beneficial to all within it, making us stronger and more resilient; and

WHEREAS, each of our elected leaders has the ability and obligation to promote inclusiveness; celebrate diversity; work to ensure equitable opportunities in all major facets of society; prevent the spread of misinformation and disinformation; and reject hate and bias in all forms and should set a positive example for their constituents in this regard; and

WHEREAS, the January 6, 2021 domestic terrorism incident at our nation's Capitol does not reflect the values of Leon County Government; and

WHEREAS, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) report on Murder and Extremism in the United States in 2019 found that domestic extremists killed at least 42 people in the United States in 17 separate incidents in 2019, making 2019 the sixth deadliest year on record for domestic extremist-related killings since 1970; and

WHEREAS, the ADL report found that the extremist-related murders of 2019 were overwhelmingly (90%) linked to right-wing extremists, with all but one of the incidents tied to right-wing extremism, and 81% of extremist-related murders in 2019 committed by white supremacists specifically; and

1 WHEREAS, disinformation, misinformation, and online conspiracy theories such as QAnon
2 are spreading and inspiring real-world violence; and
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4 WHEREAS, Leon County Government supports the peaceful exercise of free speech, free
5 assembly, and freedom to worship safely for all people; and
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7 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEON
8 COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:
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- 10 1. The Board affirms its ongoing commitment to cultivating an inclusive, safe, and just society
11 and culture – including within Leon County Government operations and institutions – that
12 values the diversity of our community, works to ensure equitable opportunities in all major
13 facets of society, and celebrates both our individuality and commonality.
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- 15 2. The Board denounces the January 6, 2021 domestic terrorism incident at our nation’s Capitol.
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- 17 3. The Board denounces anti-government extremism, white supremacy, racism, antisemitism,
18 misogyny, Islamophobia, anti-LGBTQ+ hate, ableism, and all hateful speech and bias-
19 motivated violent actions in our community.
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- 21 4. The Board denounces extremist conspiracy theories, misinformation, and disinformation that
22 cultivate an alienated and mistrustful electorate, undermine democratic institutions and
23 processes, and increase the likelihood of violence.
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- 25 5. The Board denounces attempts to exploit governmental procedure and basic government
26 functions for personal political gain.
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- 28 6. The Board commits to fostering an environment within Leon County Government operations
29 and institutions that does not tolerate anti-government extremist, white supremacist, racist,
30 antisemitic, misogynist, Islamophobic, anti-LGBTQ+, ableist, and other hateful speech and
31 actions.
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- 33 7. The Board commits to countering hate and extremism by offering an ongoing public lecture
34 series on anti-bias and anti-racist strategies.
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- 36 8. The Board commits to countering hate and extremism through engagement with community
37 leaders, governmental transparency and public information-sharing regarding efforts to fight
38 extremism, and encourages the investigation and prosecution of those who commit criminal
39 acts, consistent with civil liberties protections.
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- 41 9. The Board urges residents to join us by adopting these values in their own lives, calling
42 attention to these harms, and denouncing hate and extremism to help keep us all safe.

1 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

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This resolution shall have effect upon adoption.

DONE, ADOPTED AND PASSED by the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, this _____ day of June 2021.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Rick Minor, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTESTED BY:
Gwendolyn Marshall, Clerk of Court
& Comptroller, Leon County, Florida

By: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Chasity H. O'Steen, County Attorney
Leon County Attorney's Office

By: _____