**Proclamation**

Resolution 26-125

**WHEREAS**, we as citizens of Yellowstone County, Montana recognize the worldwide problem of violence against women occurs even here; and

**WHEREAS**, gender violence is traumatic to the body, mind and spirit and can prevent people from being fully active participants at home and in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the health of parents and caregivers is critical to the overall health and wellbeing of their families and the larger community; and

**WHEREAS**, gender violence costs the nation billions of dollars annually in medical expenses, police and court costs, shelters and foster care, sick leave, absenteeism and non-productivity; and

**WHEREAS,** in spite of some progress, we need only to look at our newspapers or watch a television newscast to see the unfortunate truth that gender violence has not yet been eliminated here or elsewhere around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, we, the citizens of Yellowstone County, support efforts of individuals and join organizations, such as the Zonta Club of Billings, to raise awareness, stimulate discussion, and advocate for statewide solutions that will curb gender violence; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Yellowstone County join thousands of others from around the world to assert that the right of women and men to be free of violence is a fundamental human right.

**THEREFORE AND TOWARD THAT END**, the Yellowstone County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the 16 days between International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women on November 25th and International Human Rights Day on December 10th as the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. During these 16 days, all Yellowstone County citizens are urged to support work to end gender violence and to eliminate the detrimental consequences gender violence has on the wellbeing of our county.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners, Yellowstone County, Montana this 24th day of November, 2026.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA

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Mark Morse, Chair

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Michael J. Waters, Member

ATTEST:

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Chris White, Member

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Jeff Martin, Clerk and Recorder