

# PROCLAMATION

## Recognizing April 2026 as Second Chance Month

**WHEREAS**, McHenry County is committed to the quality of life, economic betterment, and forward-thinking governance of the County on behalf of all its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly one in three American adults has a criminal record, often facing "collateral consequences" that create permanent barriers to housing, employment, education, and civic participation even after their sentence is served; and

**WHEREAS**, providing a "second chance" through community support and the removal of these barriers reduces recidivism, increases public safety, and strengthens the local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, McHenry County is committed to being a place of restoration where justice-impacted residents can safely and successfully reintegrate and thrive; and

**WHEREAS**, the 22nd Judicial Circuit Specialty Courts serve as a strong example of this commitment, providing individuals in the justice system with structured opportunities for accountability, treatment, and rehabilitation; and

**WHEREAS**, the McHenry County Workforce Network has secured funding to support second chance individuals, providing meaningful opportunities for those involved in the justice system to gain real-world work experience, build a strong foundation for future careers, and successfully transition into the workforce through individualized programming that meets participants where they are, aligns with their interests, and continues to demonstrate impactful success while reinforcing a commitment to opportunity for all.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that the McHenry County Board affirms its support for "second chances" recognizing the dignity, value, and potential of every person and the importance of redemption and rehabilitation; and

**BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED**, that the McHenry County Board hereby recognizes April 2026 as Second Chance Month and calls on all citizens, government agencies, and private institutions to recognize the importance of second chances and to support the policies and programs that empower justice impacted individuals to rebuild their lives and strengthen our community; and

**BE IT FURTHER PRCLAIED**, that the County Clerk is hereby authorized to distribute a certified copy of this Proclamation to the County Board and the County Administrator.

**DATED** at Woodstock, Illinois, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, A.D., 2026.

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Michael Buehler, Chairman  
McHenry County Board

ATTEST:

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Joseph J. Tirio, County Clerk



**McHenry County Board**

County Board Room  
Woodstock, IL 60098

Meeting: April 21, 2026  
Department: County Administration  
Prepared By: Kathie Bough

**PROCLAMATION**

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SUBJECT: Recognizing April 2026 as Second Chance Month

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**Board / Committee Action Requested:**

To approve a Proclamation recognizing April 2026 as Second Chance Month.