

PROCLAMATION



Office of the Mayor

WHEREAS, autism is a natural and lifelong part of human diversity, and autistic people are valued members of our community whose unique perspectives and contributions enrich our society; and

WHEREAS, there is no single way to be autistic. Autistic people communicate, learn, interact, and express themselves in a wide variety of ways, and may share common experiences, including unique patterns of thinking and attention, sensory differences, use of routines, stimming for regulation, diverse communication styles (including echolalia and scripting), and differences in social interaction and emotional expression; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, about 1 in 31 children have been identified as autistic, and autism is more commonly identified among boys, though many remain under identified; and

WHEREAS, an informed, inclusive, and accepting community recognizes and accepts autistic people as they are and commits to fostering belonging, understanding, and respect; and

WHEREAS, autistic people may benefit from support and accommodations, and from communities, schools, workplaces, and public spaces designed with accessibility, inclusion, and neurodiversity in mind; and

WHEREAS, the principle "Nothing About Us, Without Us" affirms that autistic people must be meaningfully included in decisions that affect their lives, and that policies should promote equal rights, opportunity, and self-determination.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT I, JACOB A. WOODFORD, Mayor of the City of Appleton, Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim April 2026, as

Autism Acceptance Month

in Appleton and encourage all residents to listen to and learn from autistic people; promote inclusion and provide support and services tailored to the diverse needs, strengths, and preferences of autistic people; offer assistance when welcomed; and work together to ensure all autistic people are treated with dignity and respect.



Signed and sealed this 10th day of April 2026.

JACOB A. WOODFORD
MAYOR OF APPLETON

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