

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month calls attention to the fact that sexual harassment, assault, and abuse are widespread and impact every person in this community, with an American being sexually assaulted every 68 seconds in the United States; and

WHEREAS, rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment harm impacts our community, as shown by statistics indicating that one in five women and one in 33 men have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lives; and

WHEREAS, we must work together to educate our community about sexual assault prevention, supporting survivors, and speaking out against harmful attitudes and actions; and

WHEREAS, with leadership and dedication, we can be successful in preventing sexual assault in East Texas by increasing education, awareness, and community involvement. Preventing sexual violence requires promoting respect, consent, and healthy relationships while empowering individuals to safely intervene and challenge harmful behaviors; and

WHEREAS, The Women's Center of East Texas provided services to 177 sexual assault survivors in 2025; and

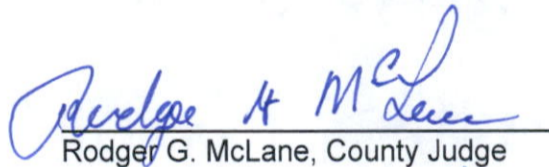
WHEREAS, we honor the strength and resilience of survivors of sexual violence and recognize the importance of providing compassionate support, advocacy, and resources to help survivors heal; and


WHEREAS, Panola County strongly supports the efforts of national, state, and local partners, and of every citizen, to actively engage in public and private efforts to prevent sexual assault. It is time for all members of our community to take action, support survivors, and work together to create a safer environment for everyone; and


NOW, THEREFORE, the Commissioners' Court of Panola County, Texas joins advocates and communities across the nation in playing an active role to end sexual assault. Along with the United States Government and State of Texas, we do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2026 as

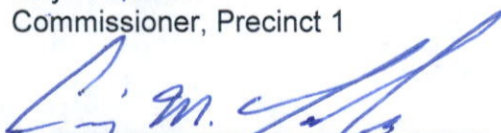
SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH


Dated this 7th day of April, 2026


Rodger G. McLane, County Judge

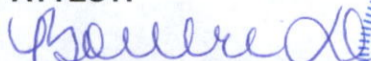

Billy Alexander
Commissioner, Precinct 1


David A. Cole
Commissioner, Precinct 2


Craig M. Lawless
Commissioner, Precinct 3


Dale LaGrone
Commissioner, Precinct 4

ATTEST:


Bobbie Davis, County Clerk

