PROCLAMATION

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH - OCTOBER 2026

WHEREAS, the crime of domestic violence violates the basic human rights of safety and dignity, and in 2024, 161 Texans were killed due to domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence can go beyond physical assault to encompass psychological, emotional, financial, and sexual abuse; the CDC survey found that nearly one in three women and one in five men in the United States have experienced psychologically aggressive behavior by an intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, the problems of domestic violence are not confined to any group of people, but cut across all economic, racial, gender and societal barriers; and

WHEREAS, the devastating effects of domestic violence reach far beyond the individuals directly involved, impacting children, families, workplaces, schools, and entire communities when violence in relationships is ignored or tolerated; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness, supporting survivors, holding offenders accountable, and promoting healthy, respectful relationships are essential steps toward breaking the cycle of violence and building safer communities for all; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, Texas family violence programs delivered approximately 1.7 million services and supported nearly 66,000 survivors and their families; and during that same year, the Women's Center of East Texas provided face-to-face services to more than 1,230 adults and 236 children who experienced domestic violence and provided 6,590 days of shelter to those seeking safety and refuge; and

WHEREAS, the Women's Center of East Texas provided direct services to more than 21 victims from Panola County, demonstrating the continued need for awareness, resources, support, and community action to address domestic violence and assist those affected by it; and

WHEREAS, every person deserves to live free from violence and abuse, and together we have the power and responsibility to create a community where survivors are believed, supported, and empowered, and where domestic violence is never tolerated;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commissioners' Court of Panola County, Texas does hereby proclaim the month of October, 2026 as

"Domestic Violence Awareness Month"

and call upon the people of Panola County to work together with the Women's Center of East Texas and local partners to bring an end to domestic violence in our community.

Dated this 6th day of October, 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

COMMISSIONERS COURT ★ PANOLA COUNTY, TEXAS ★