

1 Introduced by Council Member Miller and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Boylan, Peluso and Johnson:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2025-50-A**

6 A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTH OF MARCH 2025
7 AS IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN
8 JACKSONVILLE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS,** persons of Irish descent have been in America since
11 the earliest days of its founding, including 9 of the 56 signers of
12 the Declaration of Independence who had Irish origins; and

13 **WHEREAS,** the terrible potato famine of the 1840s decimated
14 Ireland's population and drove more than one million people to
15 immigrate to the United States in search of a better life; and

16 **WHEREAS,** nearly 4.5 million Irish arrived in the U.S. between
17 1820 and 1930, and as of 2021, nearly 31 million Americans, 9.2% of
18 the population, claim Irish ancestry, including over 118,000 who were
19 born in Ireland; and

20 **WHEREAS,** the original Irish immigrants had humble beginnings
21 in our country, performing jobs as farmers, servants, miners, factory
22 workers, laborers, police officers and firefighters, supporting the
23 American economy and their families during their gradual rise to the
24 middle class, despite decades of anti-Irish prejudice and
25 mistreatment; and

26 **WHEREAS,** America owes a debt of gratitude to the Irish-American
27 inventors and entrepreneurs who helped define America as the land of
28 opportunity, to the Irish-American writers who have pollinated
29 America's literary landscape with their love of language and
30 storytelling, to those whose Irish lyricism has brought poetry, art,
31 music, and dance to nourish our hearts and souls, and to inspiring

1 political leaders including the likes of John F. Kennedy, Ronald
2 Reagan and Thomas Phillip "Tip" O'Neill, Jr.; and

3 **WHEREAS,** Irish American Heritage Month in March has been
4 recognized by the federal government since its establishment by an
5 act of Congress in 1990 and recognized by Presidential proclamation
6 every year since 1997; now therefore

7 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

8 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby declares the month of
9 March 2025 to be Irish American Heritage Month in Jacksonville and
10 encourages all citizens to take the opportunity to learn more about
11 the history and contributions of Irish immigrants to American life
12 and culture and to celebrate their positive impact on our country.

13 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
14 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
15 without the Mayor's signature.

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17 Form Approved:

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19 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

20 Office of General Counsel

21 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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