

1 Introduced by Council Member Johnson:  
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4 **RESOLUTION 2026-253**

5 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF APRIL 19-  
6 25, 2026, AS NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK IN  
7 JACKSONVILLE, AND CELEBRATING THE JACKSONVILLE  
8 PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM AS A VITAL INSTITUTION OF  
9 KNOWLEDGE, LITERACY, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT;  
10 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
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12 **WHEREAS**, since its founding in 1903, the Jacksonville Public  
13 Library has stood as a cornerstone of intellectual life in our city,  
14 providing generations of residents with free and equitable access to  
15 knowledge, culture, and opportunity; and

16 **WHEREAS**, over the course of more than a century, the Jacksonville  
17 Public Library has grown into a vibrant system of 21 locations,  
18 including the Main Library and neighborhood branches throughout the  
19 city, each serving as a gateway to learning, discovery, and civic  
20 connection for residents of every age and background; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the Jacksonville Public Library continues to evolve  
22 alongside the needs of the community by offering a broad spectrum of  
23 services including live educational and cultural events, public  
24 computer access, meeting and collaboration spaces, free online  
25 learning opportunities, and innovative resources such as the Memory  
26 Lab, which enables residents to preserve and digitize cherished  
27 photographs and videos; and

28 **WHEREAS**, the library system extends its reach beyond the walls  
29 of its branches through initiatives such as the River City Readers'  
30 Bookmobile and Books by Mail, ensuring that residents in neighborhoods  
31 with limited access to traditional library services can still

1 experience the power and promise of reading and discovery; and

2 **WHEREAS**, in 2025 alone, Jacksonville Public Library welcomed  
3 more than 2.4 million visits, facilitated the borrowing of over 5.7  
4 million items, and hosted nearly 9,000 educational and cultural  
5 programs, including the highly successful Jax Book Fest, which  
6 welcomed thousands of residents and brought nationally recognized  
7 authors to our community free of charge; and

8 **WHEREAS**, libraries represent one of the most enduring  
9 expressions of democratic access to knowledge, empowering individuals  
10 to pursue education, expand their horizons, strengthen their  
11 communities, and participate fully in civic life; and

12 **WHEREAS**, National Library Week provides an important opportunity  
13 to recognize and celebrate the invaluable contributions of  
14 librarians, library workers, volunteers, and supporters whose  
15 dedication ensures that the doors of learning remain open to every  
16 resident of Jacksonville; now therefore

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

18 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes the week of  
19 April 19-25, 2026, as National Library Week in Jacksonville, and  
20 encourages all residents to visit their neighborhood library,  
21 participate in its programs, explore its vast resources, and celebrate  
22 the librarians and staff whose work strengthens literacy, fuels  
23 curiosity, and helps build a more informed and connected community.

24 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become  
25 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
26 without the Mayor's signature.

1 Form Approved:

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3 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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