

RESOLUTION 26-_____

**A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING APRIL 10th, 2026 AS GOPHER TORTOISE DAY AND
THE MONTH OF APRIL 2026 AS GOPHER TORTOISE MONTH**

WHEREAS, April 10th has been observed annually as Gopher Tortoise Day and April as Gopher Tortoise Month in order to raise awareness regarding their impact on the health of our local ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, Tortoises are one of the oldest species still living on earth with their ancestors appearing almost 60 million years ago and the Gopher Tortoise having lived in Florida for more than two million years; and

WHEREAS, the Gopher Tortoise is considered a keystone species which has a large impact on its ecosystem relative to its abundance, including its burrow which protects more than 350 commensal species, some of which are also listed as threatened; and

WHEREAS, the Gopher Tortoise today is, in the State of Florida, listed as threatened, and in parts of the U.S., is federally listed as threatened, therefore needing protection; and

WHEREAS, having Gopher Tortoises and other species in Brevard County helps sustain our area's ecology and provides people with a source of joy and appreciation for nature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners does hereby recognize April 10th, 2026 as **Gopher Tortoise Day in Brevard County, Florida** and April 2026 as **Gopher Tortoise Month in Brevard County, Florida** and urges all citizens to protect this species by developing a better understanding of them and their positive impact on our ecosystem.

DONE, ORDERED AND ADOPTED, in regular session, this 7th day of April, 2026.

THAD ALTMAN, CHAIR
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BREVARD COUNTY, FL

ATTEST:

RACHEL SADOFF, CLERK