

1           A RESOLUTION recognizing April as National County Government Month.

2           WHEREAS, every state in the United States of America uses a form of county  
3 government in some capacity; and

4           WHEREAS, in the days before the creation of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the  
5 land that would become sovereign territory of the Commonwealth was part of Fincastle  
6 County in Virginia, and in 1776, George Rogers Clark oversaw the legislation creating  
7 Kentucky County therefrom; and

8           WHEREAS, recognizing this genesis, the Commonwealth's very roots were steeped  
9 in the county form of government; and

10          WHEREAS, for many years, counties performed a judicial capacity, as well as an  
11 administrative capacity, establishing their utmost importance in the daily lives of their  
12 residents early on in the nascent history of the Commonwealth of Kentucky; and

13          WHEREAS, after the passage of the Judicial Article in 1976, the judicial capacity  
14 formerly resident with the county courts was assigned to the Circuit and District Courts,  
15 and the county courts cast their focus on their fiscal and administrative duties for the  
16 citizens of their counties; and

17          WHEREAS, the county serves as an interface between the citizens and the  
18 Commonwealth of Kentucky, through the proper assessment and collection of revenues  
19 for the Commonwealth, and as a point of contact for receiving revenues from the state  
20 and federal government for capital projects as well as for other services which improve  
21 the quality of life for the residents of the county; and

22          WHEREAS, county governments themselves provide inestimable services for their  
23 citizens, such as preservation of the peace; protection of persons and property from fire  
24 and other emergent and dangerous conditions; provision of potable water; collection and  
25 treatment of waste; provision of roads and other transportation infrastructure; provision of  
26 healthcare; protection of the population from wrongdoers through the provision of houses  
27 of detention; conservation, preservation, and protection of natural spaces, including the

1 flora and fauna therein; provision of utility services that are vital to the health and  
2 comfort of the counties' residents; and promotion of health and recreation through  
3 programs and facilities, including public parks, libraries, and museums; and

4 WHEREAS, each year on a national level, county governments' investment in water  
5 systems, public facilities, broadband services, and transportation alone exceeds \$100  
6 billion; and

7 WHEREAS, it shall be further noted that county governments own and maintain the  
8 greatest amount of miles of roads which directly serve to enhance and sustain the nation's  
9 economy and the citizens' vitality and security; and

10 WHEREAS, it must be emphasized that while the county governments provide  
11 these services that promote the health, enjoyment, and well-being of the citizens of the  
12 counties, the government itself is a construct that is dependent upon the county officials  
13 and employees constituting that government form; and

14 WHEREAS, in recent times, with a lean economy, county officials and employees  
15 have been placed in positions where they are asked to keep providing these manifold  
16 services with less fiscal resources, and through creativity and earnest contemplation and  
17 difficult decision-making, these officials and employees have risen to meet this challenge  
18 and have excelled in doing so; and

19 WHEREAS, these officials and employees work for the county not only for a living,  
20 but in a majority of instances, out of a sense of civic duty and a desire to promote the  
21 prosperity, health, and well-being of the citizens of the county; and

22 WHEREAS, in consideration of the inestimable services provided at the county  
23 level, it is fitting and proper to recognize counties and their officials and employees for  
24 their service; and

25 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Association of Counties works tirelessly to advocate for  
26 pertinent, sustainable policies and to support, inform, and educate the officers and  
27 employees of the Commonwealth's 120 counties so that these officers and employees may

1 better serve the citizens of the Commonwealth;

2 NOW, THEREFORE,

3 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*  
4 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

5 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives recognizes April as National County  
6 Government Month and commends the elected and appointed county officials, county  
7 employees, and volunteers for their civic-mindedness and willingness to serve in these  
8 vital roles in such an excellent manner.

9 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a  
10 copy of this Resolution to House Local Government Chair Michael Meredith for  
11 presentation to Henderson County Magistrate Bruce Todd, President, and Denny  
12 Nunnelley, Executive Director, Kentucky Association of Counties, 400 Englewood Drive,  
13 Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.