

**Yolo County
Board of Supervisors**

Resolution No. 26-02

***Honoring the Life and Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Proclaiming January 19,
2026 “Martin Luther King, Jr.” Day in Yolo County***

WHEREAS, renowned civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 15, 1929, and was ordained pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1954; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King delivered his famous “I Have a Dream” speech on August 28, 1963, at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway in 1964, and the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 was enacted as a direct result of Dr. King’s work; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, Dr. King led the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, and President Lyndon Johnson signed the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement helped change public policy from segregation to integration, resulting in the repeal of the post-Reconstruction era state laws mandating racial segregation in the south known as the Jim Crow Laws, thereby leading to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and other antidiscrimination laws aimed at ending economic, legal, and social segregation in America; and

WHEREAS, on April 4, 1968, while in Memphis, Tennessee, assisting striking sanitation workers, Dr. King was assassinated; and

WHEREAS, despite resistance to the creation of a new national holiday, the diligence and perseverance of United States Representative John Conyers and numerous others in pursuing this goal culminated on November 2, 1983, when President Ronald Reagan signed legislation making Dr. King’s birthday a national holiday; and

WHEREAS, January 20, 1986, marked the first observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; and, honoring the life and legacy of Dr. King, Jr., who created a cultural and spiritual touchpoint for people across the world, and whose legacy embodies the very concepts of justice, truth, and equality; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. devoted his life to fighting segregation and injustice by nonviolent means and is an outstanding example of courageous leadership in the face of unrelenting violence and harassment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Yolo County Board of Supervisors, in union with our Yolo County cities and residents, hereby proclaims January 19, 2026, as our official observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in Yolo County and encourages participation in local events honoring his legacy.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of January, 2026 by the following vote:

AYES: Barajas, Villegas, Frerichs, Vixie Sandy, Allen.

Sheila A. Allen, Chair
Yolo County Board of Supervisors