
THE COUNTY OF FRESNO

Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION



Whereas~ Fresno County evolved from a sparsely populated frontier into a major agricultural and urban center in California’s Central Valley; and

Whereas~ Fresno County was officially formed in 1856, six years after the State of California was admitted into the Union, from portions of Mariposa, Merced, and Tulare counties with Millerton as its first county seat. In 1874, the County seat moved to the City of Fresno; and

Whereas~ the County’s name “Fresno” comes from the Spanish word for *ash tree*, reflecting the local abundance of *Fraxinus dipetala* along the San Joaquin River. Fresno County transformed from a dry desert into fertile agricultural region through irrigation projects, including the “church ditches” developed by Moses Church. These canals enabled extensive wheat farming and later supported the raisin industry; and

Whereas~ ranching and grain cultivation were also significant as the County became a leader in agriculture, producing over 250 commercial products worth billions of dollars per year; and

Whereas~ the County today spans approximately 6,011 square miles and is home to a population exceeding one million residents. Fresno County hosts numerous historical societies, libraries, and archives documenting its rich heritage, reflecting a blend of Native American, Spanish, and American frontier influences; and

Whereas~ Fresno County’s evolution from a frontier settlement to a thriving agricultural and urban region illustrates its resilience, innovation, and cultural diversity, making it a significant part of California’s Central Valley history.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes the 170th Anniversary of the formation of Fresno County and to the people who have made Fresno County their home.

**ADOPTED BY THE FRESNO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
THIS 12TH DAY OF MAY 2026.**

Chairman Garry Bredefeld, District 2 Supervisor

Buddy Mendes, District 4 Supervisor

Vice Chairman Luis Chavez, District 3 Supervisor

Nathan Magsig, District 5 Supervisor

Brian Pacheco, District 1 Supervisor