

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-

**RESOLUTION OF THE NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA, RECOGNIZING AND REAFFIRMING THE
IMPORTANCE OF FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND THE VITAL ROLE
OF INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM IN PROTECTING DEMOCRACY,
HUMAN RIGHTS, AND GOOD GOVERNANCE**

WHEREAS, freedom of the press is foundational to American democracy and has been enshrined in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article 1, section 2 of the California Constitution;

WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson, a steady champion for the vitality of a free press and for the discharge of the solemn duty of the press to accuracy in reporting for a thriving democratic society, wrote that “[o]ur liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost,” and, in his Second Inaugural Address given to a cautious and hopeful people of a country at its dawn, said that when “truth and reason have maintained their ground against false opinions in league with false facts, the press, confined to truth, needs no other legal restraint;”

WHEREAS, a free and independent press promotes democratic governance by enhancing public accountability, transparency, and participation in civil society;

WHEREAS, harassment, threats, and violence against members of the free and independent press persist through the history of modern civilization, a problem for which there is no easy remedy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Napa County Board of Supervisors, on this the 22nd day of July, 2025, that the Board:

(1) finds that a free press—

- (A) is a central component of free societies and democratic governance;
- (B) contributes to an informed civil society and government accountability;
- (C) helps to expose corruption;
- (D) enhances public accountability and transparency of governments at all levels; and
- (E) disseminates information that is essential to improving public health and safety;

(2) recognizes and commends journalism’s role in providing trusted, accurate, and timely information and in holding governments and leaders accountable to citizens;

(3) condemns all actions around the world that suppress press freedom and endanger the safety of journalists; and

(4) reaffirms the centrality of press freedom to promote good governance.


THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS DULY, AND REGULARLY ADOPTED
by the Napa County Board of Supervisors, State of California, at a regular meeting of the Board
of Supervisors on the 22nd day of July, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS _____

NOES: SUPERVISORS _____
ABSTAIN: SUPERVISORS _____
ABSENT: SUPERVISORS _____

NAPA COUNTY, a political subdivision of the
State of California

By: _____
ANNE COTTRELL, Chair
Napa County Board of Supervisors

<p>APPROVED AS TO FORM Office of County Counsel</p> <p>By: </p> <p>_____ County Counsel</p> <p>Date: <u>July 16, 2025</u></p>	<p>APPROVED BY THE NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>Processed By: _____</p> <p>_____ Deputy Clerk of the Board</p>	<p>ATTEST: NEHA HOSKINS Clerk of the Board of Supervisors</p> <p>By: _____</p>
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