



Tompkins County Legislature

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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature recognizes that the health, environmental integrity, and economic vitality of Tompkins County are closely tied to the quality of the Finger Lakes and their surrounding watersheds, and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes serve as vital sources of clean, safe, drinking water for residents throughout the Finger Lakes regions, including residents of Tompkins County, and many of these waterbodies are designated as Class AA(T) protected waterbodies, and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes region represents an interconnected system of waters that spans multiple counties, linking communities through shared environmental, economic, and cultural resources, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County is fortunate to be situated within the watersheds of two Finger Lakes, and both benefit from and contribute to the stewardship of these critical natural resources, and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the Finger Lakes have experienced harmful algal blooms (HABS), driven in part by excess nutrients that promote the growth of algae and cyanobacteria, and

WHEREAS these harmful algal blooms pose a threat to water quality, public health, recreation, and local economies throughout the region, and

WHEREAS, watershed organizations across the Finger Lakes region are advancing pollutant reduction strategies and promoting responsible land and water stewardship practices among residents, businesses and institutions, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature recognizes the important work of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, Owasco Lake Watershed Association, and the Owasco Lake Management Council in their efforts to protect and restore their respective lakes and watershed, and

WHEREAS, the Lake Friendly Living Coalition of the Finger Lakes provides conservation guidance through its Lake Friendly Living Program and supports public outreach and education efforts during Lake Friendly Awareness Month each May, and

WHEREAS, these efforts empower community members to take meaningful action to protect water quality and preserve the natural beauty and ecological health of the Finger Lakes for future generations, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Tompkins County Legislature commemorates the Finger Lakes community's celebration of Lake Friendly Living Awareness month and proclaims the month of May, 2026, as

LAKE FRIENDLY AWARENESS MONTH

in Tompkins County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Shawna M. Black, on behalf of the Tompkins County Legislature, have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the great seal of Tompkins County, State of New York, on this the 5th day of May 2026.

Shawna M. Black, Chairwoman
Tompkins County Legislature