



Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson
Way
Viera, FL 32940

Resolution/Award/Presentation

E.4.

4/7/2026

Subject:

Resolution Designating April 10th, 2026 as Gopher Tortoise Day and the Month of April as Gopher Tortoise Month - District 4

Fiscal Impact:

There is no impact to the General Fund

Dept/Office:

District 4 Commission Office

Requested Action:

It is requested that the Board of County Commissioners approve a Resolution designating April 10th, 2026 as Gopher Tortoise Day and the month of April as Gopher Tortoise Month.

Summary Explanation and Background:

Gopher tortoises originated approximately 60 million years ago, and are one of the oldest living species on the planet and the only native North American tortoise species east of the Mississippi River. They are relatively small: about 9-11 inches long and 10 pounds fully grown, but, once they reach adulthood, gopher tortoises can live to be over 90 years old.

Additionally, the gopher tortoise is a keystone species, meaning they have an outsized impact on their environment. This impact is largely due to their burrows. Gopher tortoises have large, elephantine hind limbs and flattened, shovel-like forelimbs that are uniquely designed to dig burrows up to 40 feet long and 10 feet wide. At least 300 other species also use their burrows, including rare species such as the Eastern indigo snake, gopher frog, Florida mouse, and hundreds of rodents and invertebrates. Gopher tortoises and other animals use the burrows to shelter from the elements, including fire, and from predators. Many species would not survive without gopher tortoises.

The goal of Gopher Tortoise Day is to increase awareness, appreciation, and to educate others on the importance of protecting gopher tortoises.

Clerk to the Board Instructions:

Please frame 1 Resolution



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April 08, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commissioner Rob Feltner, District 4

RE: Item E.4., Resolution Designating April 10, 2026, as Gopher Tortoise Day and the month of April, as Gopher Tortoise Month

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on April 07, 2026, adopted Resolution No. 26-023, designating April 10, 2026, as Gopher Tortoise Day and the month of April, as Gopher Tortoise Month. Enclosed is a copy of the Resolution.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK

Kimberly Powell
Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board

/sj

Encl. (1)

Brevard



County

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Resolution

WHEREAS, April 10th has been observed annually as **GOPHER TORTOISE DAY** and April as **GOPHER TORTOISE MONTH** in order to raise awareness regarding their impact on the health or our local ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, Tortoises are one of the oldest species still living on earth with their ancestors appearing almost 60 million years ago and the Gopher Tortoise having lived in Florida for more than two million years; and

WHEREAS, the Gopher Tortoise is considered a keystone species which has a large impact on its ecosystem relative to its abundance, including its burrow which protects more than 350 commensal species, some of which are also listed as threatened; and

WHEREAS, the Gopher Tortoise today is, in the State of Florida, listed as threatened, and in parts of the U.S., is federally listed as threatened, therefore needing protection; and

WHEREAS, having Gopher Tortoises and other species in Brevard County helps sustain our area's ecology and provides people with a source of joy and appreciation for nature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, does hereby recognize April 10th, 2026, and the month of April 2026 as

**GOPHER TORTOISE DAY
AND
GOPHER TORTOISE MONTH**

and urges all citizens to protect this species by developing a better understanding of them and their positive impact on our ecosystem.

DONE, ORDERED, AND ADOPTED, in regular session this 7th day of April, 2026.

ATTEST:

RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK

THAD ALTMAN, CHAIR
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA



RESOLUTION 26-_____

**A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING APRIL 10th, 2026 AS GOPHER TORTOISE DAY AND
THE MONTH OF APRIL 2026 AS GOPHER TORTOISE MONTH**

WHEREAS, April 10th has been observed annually as Gopher Tortoise Day and April as Gopher Tortoise Month in order to raise awareness regarding their impact on the health of our local ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, Tortoises are one of the oldest species still living on earth with their ancestors appearing almost 60 million years ago and the Gopher Tortoise having lived in Florida for more than two million years; and

WHEREAS, the Gopher Tortoise is considered a keystone species which has a large impact on its ecosystem relative to its abundance, including its burrow which protects more than 350 commensal species, some of which are also listed as threatened; and

WHEREAS, the Gopher Tortoise today is, in the State of Florida, listed as threatened, and in parts of the U.S., is federally listed as threatened, therefore needing protection; and

WHEREAS, having Gopher Tortoises and other species in Brevard County helps sustain our area's ecology and provides people with a source of joy and appreciation for nature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners does hereby recognize April 10th, 2026 as **Gopher Tortoise Day in Brevard County, Florida** and April 2026 as **Gopher Tortoise Month in Brevard County, Florida** and urges all citizens to protect this species by developing a better understanding of them and their positive impact on our ecosystem.

DONE, ORDERED AND ADOPTED, in regular session, this 7th day of April, 2026.

THAD ALTMAN, CHAIR
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BREVARD COUNTY, FL

ATTEST:

RACHEL SADOFF, CLERK