

# STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the recognition of April as "Arab American Heritage Month" celebrates the tens of thousands of Arab Americans in Illinois; and,

**WHEREAS**, Arab Americans have preserved and shared rich cultural traditions, including literature, music, language, and cuisine, that contribute to the diverse cultural fabric of Illinois; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is important to celebrate the diversity of cultures and heritages as a reminder that despite our differing backgrounds, everyone in Illinois is bound by a common hope for a better and more inclusive future; and,

**WHEREAS**, Arab American people have played a vital role in shaping, advancing, and enriching many aspects of the State of Illinois by providing immense contributions to government, arts and sciences, medicine, technology, and businesses, like restaurants, as evidenced by a large number of businesses in corridors such as "Little Palestine" in Bridgeview; and,

**WHEREAS**, as of January 1, 2024, Illinois led the nation by formally recognizing Arab Americans in statewide data collection, thereby strengthening representation and supporting more intentional service delivery; and,

**WHEREAS**, Arab American Heritage Month offers all Illinoisans an opportunity to deepen cross cultural understanding and foster a spirit of unity, respect, and inclusion across the State; and,

**WHEREAS**, Illinois is fully committed to the growth and advancement of Arab American-owned businesses and enterprises through programs offered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Office of Economic Equity and Empowerment, aimed at connecting Arab American business startups, entrepreneurs and business owners with resources to grow and thrive;

**THEREFORE**, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim April 2026 as Arab American Heritage Month in Illinois and encourage all Illinoisans to join us in this special observance.

**In Witness Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,  
this FIRST day of APRIL, in  
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and  
TWENTY-SIX, and of the State of Illinois,  
two hundred and SEVENTH.



*Alexi Giannouh*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

*JB Pritzker*  
GOVERNOR