



- WHEREAS, reading is an essential tool for students, offering access to experiences and viewpoints that mirror daily life. Through engaging with literature, learners discover a variety of knowledge and insights, which expand their perspectives and deepen their comprehension of the world, and,
- WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King were bound together by both their marriage and a shared commitment to serving others, which greatly influenced their lives. Dr. King's tireless fight for justice advanced the rights and well-being of people regardless of race, gender, or background. Today, his legacy continues to inspire many to promote fairness and equality; and,
- WHEREAS, the Coretta Scott King Book Awards support student growth by recognizing influential literary works. These books help foster a growth mindset, resilience, and a lifelong enthusiasm for learning; and,
- WHEREAS, the African American Museum of History and Culture at Loray Mill seeks to empower the Gaston County community with tools to explore, evaluate, engage with, and celebrate the accomplishments of African Americans. The museum achieves this mission by featuring compelling literature and presenting significant artifacts locally, regionally, and nationally; and,
- WHEREAS, in partnership with Gaston Together, the museum will honor Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Coretta Scott King Book Awards Literature Week from January 19-22, 2026. This event celebrates their legacies and emphasizes literature's role in promoting unity and understanding.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners proclaims January 19-22, 2026 as

*Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and  
Coretta Scott King Book Awards Literature Week*

in Gaston County and encourages its citizenry to explore African-American literature throughout the year

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chad Brown, Chairman

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Jim Bailey

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Bob Hovis, Vice-Chairman

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Cathy Cloninger

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Tom Keigher

\_\_\_\_\_  
Allen R. Fraley

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Shehan

To be Adopted the 27<sup>th</sup> Day of January 2026



# Gaston County

Gaston County  
Board of Commissioners  
www.gastongov.com

## Board of Commissioners Board Action

File # 25-614

Commissioner Keigher - BOC - Proclamation - To Proclaim the Week of January 19-22, 2026 as Martin Luther King, Jr Day and Coretta Scott King Book Awards Literature Week

### STAFF CONTACT

Donna Buff - Clerk to the Board - 704-866-3196

### BACKGROUND

### ATTACHMENTS

Proclamation

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows.

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	JBailey	CBrown	CCloninger	AFraley	BHovis	TKeigher	SSheehan	Vote
2026-003	01/27/2026	BH	SS	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	U

### DISTRIBUTION

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