

Date of Hearing: March 9, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES  
Blanca Pacheco, Chair  
ACR 153 (Calderon) – As Introduced March 2, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Irish American Heritage Month.

**SUMMARY:** Designates March 2026 as Irish American Heritage Month in California; and, honors the 102 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and Ireland, and the multitude of contributions that Irish Americans have made to make this a better country and state for all people. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The democratic expression of the people of Ireland's will in 1918 led directly to the establishment of an independent state and enabled the people of Ireland to enjoy the freedom they have today.
- 2) The First Dáil gave a voice to the people of Ireland's expression of self-determination in the 1918 general election. On January 21, 1919, the first meeting of the unicameral parliament of the revolutionary Irish Republic, known as the First Dáil Éireann, met in the City of Dublin's Mansion House to declare Ireland to be an independent nation and to establish its alternative parliament.
- 3) The United States recognized and established diplomatic relations with the Irish Free State in 1924. Millions of Irish people, faced with severe hardship due to famine and poverty in their nation, immigrated to the United States over the last several centuries in search of a more promising future for themselves and their families.
- 4) Irish Americans initially suffered prejudice and discrimination upon first arriving in the United States. As the years went on, Irish Americans became deeply integrated in their communities and made numerous contributions in all aspects of American society and culture.
- 5) Irish Americans played vital roles in the development of the United States. Nine Irish Americans were signers of the Declaration of Independence, and 23 Presidents of the United States have been of Irish heritage, including John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, George H. W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Joe Biden.
- 6) Irish Americans have also played a major role in California politics as governors, legislative leaders, city mayors, and other public officials who have worked tirelessly to build California into the state that it is today.
- 7) Irish Americans were significantly involved in the development of infrastructure throughout the United States, especially in the State of California, including work on railroads and bridges that connected the west to the east.
- 8) Many Irish Americans have made their mark as peace officers and firefighters and have risked or lost their lives on countless occasions in carrying out their duties.

- 9) Today, over 35 million Americans claim Irish heritage, and they continue to contribute to the politics, economy, and culture of the United States and California.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

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