

Proclamation

September 22, 2026

OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, ovarian cancer is the **fifth leading cause of cancer-related death among women in the United States**, and the **American Cancer Society estimates that in 2026 approximately 21,010 women** will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer and **12,450 will die** from the disease nationwide - including an estimated **650 new cases and 340 deaths in New Jersey**; and

WHEREAS, a woman's lifetime risk of being diagnosed with ovarian cancer is approximately **1 in 91**, and her lifetime risk of dying from the disease is approximately **1 in 143**; and

WHEREAS, due to vague, nonspecific symptoms and the **absence of a reliable early detection test**, the majority of women are diagnosed at **Stage III or later**, when the cancer has already spread beyond the ovaries; and

WHEREAS, although the **five-year survival rate for Stage I ovarian cancer exceeds 90 percent**, only **15 percent of cases are diagnosed at this early stage**. For those diagnosed in later stages, the **five-year survival rate drops below 30 percent**; and

WHEREAS, while screening tools such as mammograms and Pap tests exist for breast and cervical cancers, **no equivalent screening test exists for ovarian cancer**, making **awareness of symptoms and risk factors essential** for early intervention; and

WHEREAS, increased public education about ovarian cancer can help save lives by promoting earlier diagnosis, supporting access to gynecologic oncology care, and encouraging research funding for better detection and treatment options; and

WHEREAS, during the month of September, the Township of Chatham joins survivors, families, healthcare professionals, advocacy organizations, and all those committed to raising awareness, remembering lives lost, and offering hope for a future with better outcomes and ultimately, a cure.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Jen Rowland, do hereby proclaim **September 2026** as **OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH** in the **Township of Chatham**, New Jersey, and encourage all residents to participate in awareness activities, wear teal in support, and engage in conversations that help save lives and support the thousands of families affected by this devastating disease.



Jennifer Rowland, Mayor