

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Native Americans have inhabited the area now known as Washington state since time immemorial, and today, 29 federally recognized Indian Tribes, out-of-state Tribes with treaty reserved rights, and other Tribal communities reside in Washington; and

WHEREAS, members and descendants of Tribes around the United States and First Nations of Canada also reside in the state of Washington; and

WHEREAS, Native American contributions and values have shaped the social, political, environmental, and economic fabric of the state, while also enhancing freedom, prosperity and cultural diversity; and

WHEREAS, state law RCW 43.376, directs the governor and state agencies to establish government-to-government relationships with Tribes to enhance and formalize working relationships with the Tribes through collaboration and consultation; and

WHEREAS, state law RCW 28A.320.170, mandates the teaching of Tribal history, culture and government in common schools, which will contribute greatly to improving schools' history curriculum and enhance awareness for a better cultural understanding; and

WHEREAS, state law RCW 13.60.010, concerning the creation of an endangered missing person advisory designation for missing indigenous persons became law on June 9, 2022, which allows law enforcement to broadcast messages to the public through radio, media and other outputs in order to help locate missing indigenous persons and address the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous Women and People; and

WHEREAS, the state of Washington has designated the Friday immediately following the fourth Thursday in November as a state legal and school holiday, known as Native American Heritage Day; and

WHEREAS, Washington joins other states across the nation in celebrating Native American Heritage Month, honoring the unique heritage of this continent's First People and reaffirming the commitment to respect each Tribe's sovereignty and cultural identity;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim November 2024 as

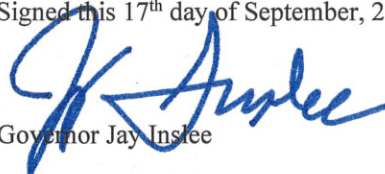
Native American Heritage Month

and November 29, 2024, as

Native American Heritage Day

in Washington and encourage all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 17th day of September, 2024


Governor Jay Inslee

