The State of Washington

Proclamation

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

WHEREAS, Native Americans have helped shape the social, political, environmental, and economic fabric of the state, while also enhancing freedom, prosperity and cultural diversity; and

WHEREAS, RCW 43.376 directs the Governor and state agencies to establish Government-to-Government relationships with Indian Tribes to enhance and formalize working relationships with the Tribes through collaboration and consultation; and

WHEREAS, Substitute Senate Bill 6034, related to the statutory establishment of the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs as a cabinet agency, was signed into law on June 11, 2026, added new sections to RCW 43.376; and

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

WHEREAS, Executive Order 25-10 was signed on October 22, 2025, establishing a new foundation for Washington state's governmental relations with sovereign Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, the state of Washington has designated the Friday immediately following the fourth Thursday in November 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, Bob Ferguson, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim November 2026 as

Native American Heritage Month

and November 27, 2026, as

Native American Heritage Day

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 30th day of October, 2026

Governor Bob Ferguson