

# 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 in order 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 school's history curriculum and enhance awareness for a better cultural understanding; and

**WHEREAS**, Substitute House Bill 1356, prohibiting the inappropriate use of Native American names, symbols, or images as public school mascots, logos, or team names, was signed into law on April 26, 2021, thus removing harmful stereotypes and barriers to racial equality, cultural awareness, and an equitable education; 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 2023 as

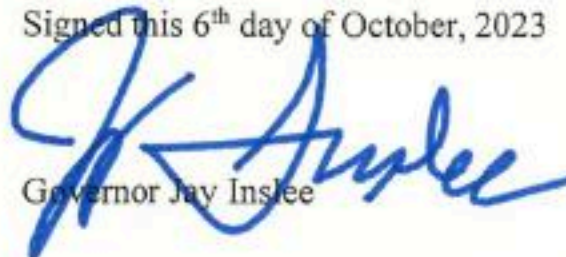
### *Native American Heritage Month*

and November 24, 2023, as

### *Native American Heritage Day*

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

Signed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023

  
Governor Jay Inslee

