

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Adiel McKnight, Deputy Clerk of the Board

DATE: October 13, 2025

SUBJECT: PROCLAMATION re: Declaring Monday, October 13, 2025 as
Indigenous Peoples' Day

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Jefferson County will consider again joining a growing number of counties, cities and states that have recognized the second Monday of October, 2025 as Indigenous People's Day, creating an opportunity to promote appreciation, tolerance, understanding, friendship and partnerships-particularly with the Tribal nations who lived, subsisted, congregated and traveled on the Olympic Peninsula lands and waters since time immemorial.

ANALYSIS:

The County is committed to building strong working relationships with our tribal neighbors through formal and informal Government-to-Government relations. Recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day is a good faith effort to acknowledge that this County sits on tribal lands, to address the historic injustices that colonization brought, and to build trust and understanding for present and future work together.

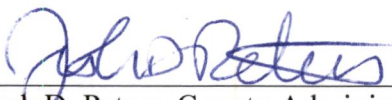
FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve and adopt the attached Proclamation re: Proclaiming Monday, October 13, 2025 as Indigenous Peoples' Day.

REVIEWED BY:


Josh D. Peters, County Administrator

10/3/25
Date

PROCLAMATION

A proclamation officially recognizing Monday, October 13, 2025 as **Indigenous Peoples' Day** in order to promote respect and representation, to honor and celebrate the rich culture and treaty rights of Indigenous People, to combat prejudice and discrimination, and to promote healing from the violence of colonization of Indigenous Peoples and their land.

WHEREAS, Jefferson County, Washington recognizes its boundaries occupy the ancestral lands and waters of the federally-recognized Jamestown S'Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Skokomish, Hoh, Quileute and Quinault Tribes; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County also recognizes that other tribal peoples have resided, traveled through, hunted, gathered, fished and camped on these lands and waters since time immemorial, including peoples that are not federally recognized; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County acknowledges that lands that currently comprise its boundaries may have been unceded or ceded, and sometimes ceded under political pressure or duress; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County honors the treaty and historical indigenous rights of tribes as sovereign nations and collaborates in good faith consultation and Government-to-Government relations; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County Commissioners are gravely concerned that resources such as salmon and shellfish, which tribes have rights to, and which their subsistence and culture rely on, are dwindling and endangered in many places due to climate change, development and resulting degradation of habitat; and

WHEREAS, the county values the many contributions Indigenous Peoples have made to our community with their knowledge, philosophy, stewardship, arts, and the deep cultural influences which have shaped our county; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County recognizes that systemic racism and bias toward Indigenous People perpetuates high rates of poverty, income inequality, health, education, and social crises, and endeavors to remove these barriers; and

WHEREAS, the idea of Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed in 1977 to the United Nations-sponsored International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, representing fifty-nine (59) Northwest Tribal Nations, passed Resolution #11-57 to "Support to Change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County joins a growing number of counties that have recognized the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day, creating an opportunity to promote learning, healing, appreciation, understanding, friendship and partnerships among all peoples;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners does hereby proclaim the second Monday in October, 2025 as

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

in Jefferson County, and encourage all to celebrate the thriving cultures and values of the Indigenous Peoples of our region, to learn more about the history of Indigenous Peoples and their cultures, and to continue efforts to promote the well-being of our Indigenous communities.

APPROVED this 13th day of October, 2025.

SEAL:

JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Heidi Eisenhour, Chair

Greg Brotherton, Member

ATTEST:

Carolyn Gallaway, CMC Clerk of the Board

Heather Dudley-Nollette, Member