

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Adiel McKnight, Executive Assistant

DATE: October 9, 2023

SUBJECT: PROCLAMATION re: Declaring Monday, October 9, 2023 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, 2023 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: Declaring Monday, October 9, 2023 as Indigenous Peoples' Day.

REVIEWED BY:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator

10/4/23
Date

PROCLAMATION

A proclamation officially recognizing Monday, October 9, 2023 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 American colonization of Indigenous Peoples and their land.

WHEREAS, Jefferson County, WA recognizes its boundaries occupy the ancestral lands of the S'Klallams/ Klallam, Quileute, Hoh, Quinault, and Skokomish tribal nations, and that other tribal peoples have resided, traveled through and camped in these lands since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, the county seat, Port Townsend, is located on ancestral lands of the S'Klallams/ Klallam, who call the area Qatay;

WHEREAS, Jefferson County honors the Point No Point and Quinault River Treaties, as well as historic rights of tribes as sovereign nations. Additionally, we participate in good faith consultation and Government-to-Government relations; and

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

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

WHEREAS, recent events such as the Covid-19 pandemic have shed light on the persistent, structural racism in this country, resulting in disparities in health outcomes suffered by black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC); 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 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, 2023 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 9^h day of October, 2023.

SEAL:

JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Greg Brotherton Chair

Kate Dean, Member

Heidi Eisenhour, Member

ATTEST:

Carolyn Gallaway, Clerk of the Board