

Proclamation

Board of Commissioners for Washington County

A PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF OUR NATION'S SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

WHEREAS, George Washington served as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army from 1775 to 1783 and served as the First President of our nation from 1789 to 1797, serving two terms, and exemplified the qualities of leadership, integrity, vision and dedication to the principles of liberty and democracy vital to the formation of our Republic; and

WHEREAS, on the evening of July 9, 1776, General Washington ordered the assembly of thousands of Continental soldiers to hear the first reading of the pivotal document we now know as the Declaration of Independence, which would serve as the unifying principle guiding the army's operations throughout the Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, prior to and during his presidential terms Washington oversaw the formation of the first Congress, the ratification of the U.S. Constitution in 1787, which established the government structure and fundamental rights for citizens of the United States; and

WHEREAS, George Washington championed a vision of cohesive leadership by separating the powers of the federal government into three distinct branches, ensuring the American Republic remained free from the vestiges of monarchy and forever charting the course of our national government; and

WHEREAS, Washington County, Oregon was incorporated as a County in 1843; and

WHEREAS, Washington County's history reflects many generations of people who have lived, worked, and stewarded this land, contributing to the County's growth, culture, and civic life over time; and

WHEREAS, there are thirty-one Counties and one Parish in our United States named after George Washington; and

WHEREAS, his enduring legacy is honored by the many communities across the United States that bear his name, including the thirty-one counties in the United States known as "Washington County"; and

WHEREAS, counties named for George Washington across the nation are joining together through the *Washingtons Unite* collaboration to commemorate the 250th Anniversary, share recognition of our namesake, and contribute to the national celebration; and

WHEREAS, calendar year 2026 is the 250th celebration of the birth of the United States of America, known as a Semiquincentennial and is an opportunity to celebrate our nation's

founding, reflect upon our shared values and renew our commitment to building a stronger and more united future for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America also provides an opportunity to reflect upon the nation's full and complex history, including the many peoples, communities, and experiences that have shaped our country over time, and to recognize that the ideals set forth at the nation's founding have been realized unevenly across generations; and

WHEREAS, The *America 250 Oregon Commission* was created through Senate Bill 1531, which was signed into law by Governor Tina Kotek on March 27, 2024; and

WHEREAS, The *America 250 Oregon Commission* is chaired by one of Oregon's most respected public stewards, the Oregon Historical Society's executive director Kerry Tymchuk; and

WHEREAS, the commission will coordinate and provide guidance for Oregon's official observances of the United States Semiquincentennial; and

WHEREAS, The *America 250 Oregon Commission* established guideposts of:

- To inspire Oregonians to participate in the work of forming a more perfect union.
- To highlight the importance of civics and history education in building a better future.
- To highlight the work of Oregon's many history and heritage organizations.
- To encourage a robust, thorough, and honest examination of our collective history.
- To celebrate the unique traditions, arts, and cultures of communities throughout Oregon.
- To honor the service and sacrifice made by Oregon's veterans.
- To celebrate the power of place through Oregon's remarkable landscapes and scenic beauty; and

WHEREAS, this collaboration highlights the unique role of counties and cities as the level of government closest to the People and demonstrates the power of partnership in honoring our history and strengthening our democracy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim 2026, as the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America, and encourages interested employees, and their families, to consider participating in the Washington County government entry in the Hillsboro parade on July 4, 2026 and observe this year with appropriate programs, activities and reflections that can be found at Oregon.250@ohs.org and america250.org/;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution shall be shared with the National Association of Counties (NACo), the Association Oregon of Counties (AOC), area local governments, fellow Washington Counties, and other partners engaged in the America 250 celebration.

Kathryn Harrington, Washington County Board Chair

Recording Secretary

Minute Order