

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, 25 years ago, on February 28, 2001, the Nisqually earthquake struck Washington state, causing approximately \$4 billion in widespread damage to homes, businesses and public infrastructure in the costliest earthquake in recent United States history, resulting in more than 400 injuries and reminding Washingtonians that we have the second highest earthquake risk in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, much of the damage and injuries experienced around the Puget Sound were a result of unreinforced masonry (URM) buildings and other infrastructure not retrofitted to seismic safety standards; and

WHEREAS, in the 25 years since the Nisqually earthquake, Washington state agencies, local and Tribal governments, engineers, emergency managers, and many others have made steady progress in earthquake risk reduction; and

WHEREAS, the 2012 Resilient Washington Report created a statewide framework to proactively reduce vulnerabilities related to earthquakes and speed up recovery if a major earthquake occurs; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 Resilient Washington Subcabinet Report built on lessons learned and focused on detailed actions the state could take including focusing on building codes and standards, assessment and inventory of vulnerable facilities and structures, and outreach and education; and

WHEREAS, initiatives such as Project Impact and the Fix the Bricks campaign, supported by both public and private stakeholders, have advanced public awareness, encouraged voluntary retrofits and promoted life-saving mitigation measures to protect residents and preserve historic buildings; and

WHEREAS, public outreach campaigns, such as the Great Washington Shakeout held each October, help residents to learn about and prepare for our earthquake hazards, further demonstrating this state's commitment to increase seismic safety following the Nisqually earthquake; and

WHEREAS, the 25th anniversary of this earthquake provides a vital opportunity to reflect on how seismic resilience is important to Washington's past, present and future and for all Washingtonians to take steps to improve our safety from the known hazard of earthquakes;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Ferguson, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim February 28, 2026, as

Nisqually Earthquake Remembrance Day

in Washington, and I call upon all Washingtonians, state agencies, local and tribal governments, businesses, labor, and residents, to honor those affected by this historic event by renewing our shared commitment to take preparedness and seismic resilience.

Signed this 18th day of February, 2026

Governor Bob Ferguson

