



King County

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, ordering the mass incarceration of more than 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry during World War II, including approximately 12,892 Japanese Americans who were taken from communities across Washington State; and

WHEREAS, the incarceration of Japanese Americans was driven by fear, racial prejudice, and misinformation, and represents a grave violation of civil liberties and constitutional rights, the impacts of which many families in King County and throughout Washington State still carry to this day; and

WHEREAS, the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II was not an isolated injustice, but part of a broader history of discriminatory and exclusionary policies against immigrant and racialized communities in the United States, including the Chinese Exclusion laws, the mass repatriation of Mexican and Mexican American families during the Great Depression, and other policies that targeted communities based on race, national origin, or perceived immigration status; and

WHEREAS, remembering this history is essential to preventing the repetition of policies and practices that target individuals and communities based on race, nationality, language, immigration status, or perceived identity;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Girmay Zahilay, Executive of King County, do hereby proclaim February 19, 2026 as the

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

in King County, and encourage all residents to use this as a chance to recommit to the fight for dignity, civil rights, and justice for all in our region.

DATED this 19th day of February, 2026.

Girmay Zahilay
King County Executive