

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, retail plays a major role in support of the Washington state economy; and

WHEREAS, the industry is the second-largest private sector employer in Washington state, with nearly 400,000 people working for retailers and 93 percent of retailers having fewer than 50 employees; and

WHEREAS, 87 percent of all retail sales still occur in physical stores across every region in Washington, making them critical partners in local communities; and

WHEREAS, the retail industry collects 41 percent of Washington state's total sales tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, in 2024 the retail sector accounted for \$226 billion in gross taxable income, making it the leading generator of tax revenue in Washington; and

WHEREAS, sustainability in the retail supply chain is a core responsibility, achieved through partnerships that reduce millions of pounds of plastic waste, lower greenhouse gas emissions and expand use of recycled and renewable materials; and

WHEREAS, both local and multi-state retailers contribute to charitable organizations and community programs throughout Washington state, providing vital services and support to residents across diverse communities; and

WHEREAS, public safety for employees, customers and communities is a top priority for the retail industry, which advocated for bipartisan legislation establishing a \$100 million public safety grant program for local jurisdictions and authorizing a public safety sales tax to support ongoing efforts; and

WHEREAS, retail careers are undergoing significant transformation due to the integration of advanced technology, which is redefining job roles, demanding new skills and creating new opportunities within the industry; and

WHEREAS, the retail workforce is rising to meet new demands by upskilling and reskilling through training programs, certifications and on-the-job learning, ensuring that workers are equipped with the knowledge and tools needed to succeed in a technology-driven environment;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Ferguson, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim September 2025 as

Careers in Retail Month

on, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 5th day of September, 2025


Governor Bob Ferguson

