

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, retail is woven into the daily life of every Washingtonian, serving as the place where commerce and community meet and standing as one of the state's most vital economic contributors; and

WHEREAS, as the second largest private employer sector in Washington state, retail employs over 330,000 people, and 93 percent of retailers have fewer than 50 employees, making retail fundamentally a small business story; and

WHEREAS, retail provides entry points to economic opportunity for young workers, immigrants, veterans, and career changers alike, reflecting the full diversity of Washington's workforce; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Retail Workforce Report to the Legislature underscores the importance of stackable credential pathways, from high school to community college certificates and associate degrees, and calls for continued investment in innovation and equity to strengthen Washington's retail workforce, support employers and expand economic opportunity for all; and

WHEREAS, 84 percent of retail sales still occur in physical stores in every region of the state, making national and local retailers indispensable anchors of the neighborhoods and downtowns they call home; and

WHEREAS, retailers across Washington serve as active and visible partners in their communities, sponsoring local chambers, school programs and youth sports and playing a critical role in supporting regional food banks and hunger relief organizations that serve Washington's most vulnerable residents; and

WHEREAS, Washington retailers are committed to the safety and wellbeing of their employees, customers and neighbors and continue to invest in partnerships with local jurisdictions, law enforcement and community organizations to build safe and welcoming retail environments statewide; and

WHEREAS, Washington's retail sector is at the forefront of innovation, increasingly integrating technology into the customer experience, supply chain management and business operations, creating new categories of jobs that require technical skill alongside traditional retail expertise;

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

Careers in Retail Month

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

Signed this 31st day of August, 2026


Governor Bob Ferguson

