

# PROCLAMATION



## “Court Interpreter Appreciation Day” May 6, 2026

**WHEREAS:** equal access to courts is a cornerstone of the American system of justice and the rule of law; and language barriers impede access to justice for individuals who are limited-English proficient or individuals who are deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing or speech-disabled individuals who rely on signed language and other assistive communication; and

**WHEREAS:** Kittitas County District and Superior Courts depend on skilled spoken language interpreters to ensure clear and accurate communication with limited-English proficient litigants, witnesses, victims, and other participants across all case types; and

**WHEREAS:** the courts further rely on qualified sign language interpreters to facilitate effective communication with deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing, and speech-disabled individuals appearing as litigants, witnesses, victims, jurors, or members of the public; and

**WHEREAS:** court interpreters bring specialized cognitive, linguistic, and legal knowledge—including mastery of court terminology and procedures—enabling precise, impartial, and culturally competent interpretation that is essential for fair hearings and due process; and

**WHEREAS:** these dedicated professionals uphold the highest ethical standards of accuracy, impartiality, confidentiality, and professionalism, thereby safeguarding the integrity of court proceedings and strengthening public confidence in our justice system; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Board of County Commissioners of Kittitas County, Washington, would like to recognize and honor the indispensable contribution of court interpreters to ensure equal access to justice for all residents of our diverse community, and do hereby proclaim Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026, as “**COURT INTERPRETER APPRECIATION DAY**” in Kittitas County and urge all citizens, elected officials, legal professionals, court personnel, and community stakeholders at the state and local levels to join us in celebrating and expressing heartfelt gratitude for the expertise, dedication, and vital service provided by court interpreters every day.

ADOPTED this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 2026.



TESTE:  
Julie Kforsvik, Clerk of the Board

THE KITITAS COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**ABSENT**

Cory Wright, Chairman

Brett Wachsmith, Vice-Chairman

Laura Osadacz, Commissioner