



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB FERGUSON

DIRECTIVE OF THE GOVERNOR

25-08

May 19, 2025

To: Executive and Small Cabinet Agencies

From: Governor Bob Ferguson

Subject: Ceremonial Flag Raisings

I direct the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) to raise the following ceremonial flags, annually, at the Capitol Campus Flag Circle:

- Pride Flag – Each June, Washington state celebrates LGBTQ Pride Month to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan, a major tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. The timing of each year's flag raising will be determined in coordination with the LGBTQ Commission.
- Juneteenth Flag – Each June 19, Washington state observes Juneteenth: the anniversary of June 19, 1865, the day Union soldiers arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas, announcing that enslaved people in the westernmost Confederate state were free. The flag will be raised each year on a date set in coordination with the Commission on African American Affairs to ensure it flies on the state holiday.

Furthermore, I may order that additional ceremonial flags be raised periodically in the Flag Circle to recognize other events or celebrate the accomplishments of Washingtonians, including our state's sports teams. Each ceremonial flag raised in the Flag Circle constitutes government speech reflecting the State of Washington's own views and messages; the flag poles in the Flag Circle are not, and are not intended to be, a public forum.

I direct DES to execute this Directive and ensure that any ceremonial flag raisings do not conflict with, or override, agency procedures or obligations involving flag protocols.

I invite other government agencies throughout the state to join the Capitol Campus in recognizing the above-referenced events by raising their own ceremonial flags on their properties, consistent with this Directive.

This Directive is effective immediately and will remain in effect through the remainder of my administration, unless otherwise amended or rescinded.