The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

A Proclamation

Whereas, After the first harvest in 1621, the Pilgrims broke bread, gave thanks, and celebrated in Plymouth, observing the first Thanksgiving thanks to the generosity and support of the Wampanoag people; and

Whereas, During the American Revolution in November 1777, the Continental Congress proclaimed a day of Thanksgiving. Samuel Adams, a son of Massachusetts, wrote, "...for solemn thanksgiving and praise, that with one heart and one voice the good people may express the grateful feelings of their hearts and consecrate themselves to the service of their divine benefactor"; and

Whereas, With the country torn by a civil war, Abraham Lincoln urged his fellow Americans to gather and give thanks during one of the most difficult times of our nation's history. After establishing Thanksgiving as a national holiday in 1864, Lincoln wrote, "To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God"; and

Whereas, Since the creation of the Commission on Indian Affairs in Massachusetts in 1976, the Commonwealth continues to recognize our Indigenous Tribes and the important role they play in stewarding our land and natural resources; and

Whereas, Executive Order 637 signed on November 19th, 2024 gives state recognition to the Herring Pond Wampanoag, there is still a lot of work to be done to empower, prioritize and center the lives, culture and heritage of Indigenous people of Massachusetts; and

Whereas, There is so much to be thankful for here in Massachusetts. We are thankful for a year spent celebrating our nation's 250th birthday, Tall Ships and Massachusetts' leadership in our revolutionary history. We are thankful for a summer when Massachusetts welcomed the world for the FIFA World Cup, and to the Tartan Army, whose tens of thousands of supporters traveled across the Atlantic, embraced our communities, and reminded us that there is no party without Scotland. We are thankful for our first responders, firefighters, and law enforcement officers who keep our communities safe, and we remember those we have lost this year. We are thankful for our veterans, service members, and military families whose service and sacrifice have protected the freedoms we hold dear. We are thankful for the doctors, nurses, and health care workers who care for us and have helped make Massachusetts the number one state in the nation for the health of women and children. We are thankful for the innovators, researchers and scientists whose discoveries are changing and saving lives. We are thankful for the teachers and staff at all our schools who help students learn, grow, and thrive, and who helped Massachusetts become number one in the nation for schools. We are thankful for our public transportation workers who keep our trains and buses running safely, transported hundreds of thousands of World Cup fans to and from the games this summer and made it easier and more affordable for people to get to work every day. We are thankful for the small businesses on our Main Streets and the employers of every size who create jobs, strengthen our communities, and power our economy. We are thankful for everyone who has stepped up to help their neighbors facing hunger - from the dedicated staff and volunteers at food pantries, to community members who gave wherever they could. We are thankful to live in a state that leads the nation in education, health care, innovation, and opportunity, and that continues to be a place where families can build a better future. Most of all, we are thankful for the people of Massachusetts - for their generosity, resilience, and willingness to look out for one another. We are thankful to live in a state that values democracy, protects fundamental freedoms, and believes that our greatest strength has always been our commitment to each other; and

Whereas, In this season of thanks, we should continue to reach out to our neighbors in need by providing a helping hand, working in a food pantry or kitchen, donating clothing or volunteering in our communities; and

Whereas, Today, as families and friends across Massachusetts and the country gather, may we be mindful of our gifts and talents, our blessings, relationships and goodwill, the peace we enjoy, the liberty we cherish and the hope we have for a joyful year ahead,

Now, Therefore, I, Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim November 26th, 2026, to be,

THANKSGIVING DAY

And urge all residents of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this twenty-sixth day of November, in the year two thousand and twenty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and fiftieth.

BY HER EXCELLENCY

MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts