

STATE OF MONTANA



Governor's Proclamation



WHEREAS, on July 8, 1776, Colonel John Nixon publicly read the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia, marking the first public proclamation of America's independence and introducing the principles that would shape a new nation; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence affirmed that all people are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS, generations of Americans have served and sacrificed to preserve the freedoms first articulated in the Declaration, ensuring that the blessings of liberty endure for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Montana's citizens have long embraced the values of independence, personal responsibility, patriotism, and self-governance that are central to the character of our state; and

WHEREAS, as Montana joins the nation in commemorating America's 250th anniversary, we have an opportunity to reflect on our nation's history, honor those who have defended our freedoms, and recommit ourselves to the values that have made America a beacon of freedom and opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Helena's Montana 250 Celebration at the State Capitol provides an opportunity to commemorate the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence and celebrate our shared American heritage;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Gianforte, Governor of the State of Montana, do hereby proclaim July 8, 2026

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

in the State of Montana and encourage all Montanans to join in celebrating.

A blue ink signature of Greg Gianforte, written in a cursive style.

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor