



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

Whereas: Nowruz, which in Persian means “new day,” is an ancestral festivity based on the solar calendar, marking the first day of spring and symbolizing nature’s renewal, celebrated on the vernal equinox in the northern hemisphere; and

Whereas: Nowruz is celebrated as a central, secular holiday by more than 300 million people around the world, across a wide array of ethnic and cultural groups, including but not limited to Afghan, Azerbaijani, Balochi, Chechen, Hazara, Kazakh, Kurdish, Kyrgyz, Lezgin, Pashtun, Iranian, Tatar, Tajik, Turkmen, Uighur and Uzbek peoples, each bringing unique customs and traditions to this joyful occasion; and

Whereas: Nowruz, celebrated through centuries-old traditions, symbolizes a time of personal renewal in harmony with nature and an opportunity for families and communities to come together; and

Whereas: Bellevue is home to many people who celebrate Nowruz and who are valued members of our community, making meaningful contributions to our city’s cultural diversity, economy and civic life; and

Whereas: as a holiday that reflects on leaving behind the challenges of the past year while embracing hope for the future, the spirit of Nowruz inspires compassion, unity and peace within our community.

Now, therefore, I, Mo Malakoutian, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim **March 20, 2026, as**

Day of Nowruz

in Bellevue and encourage all members of our community to recognize and celebrate Nowruz by attending local events and learning about the diverse cultures that enrich our city.

Mo Malakoutian, Mayor
City of Bellevue