



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

- Whereas:** Bellevue is home to a vibrant community of recreational boaters and paddlers who enjoy the city's numerous lakes, rivers and waterways; and
- Whereas:** National Safe Boating Week, observed from May 16-22, 2026, serves as the official launch of the year-round Safe Boating Campaign; and
- Whereas:** National Safe Boating Week promotes responsible boating practices and highlights important life-saving measures that help recreational boaters and paddlers stay safe while enjoying Washington's waterways; and
- Whereas:** the Safe Boating Campaign, including initiatives such as "Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day" on May 15, 2026, promotes the consistent and voluntary use of properly fitted U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets; and
- Whereas:** U.S. Coast Guard statistics show that drowning remains the leading cause of recreational boating fatalities, and the vast majority of those who drown are not wearing life jackets; and
- Whereas:** in Washington state, paddlers represent a significant portion of recreational boating fatalities, highlighting the continued need for education, awareness and safe paddling practices; and
- Whereas:** the city of Bellevue recognizes the importance of boating and paddling safety and supports efforts to educate the public on best practices to prevent accidents and save lives, including promoting the use of life jacket loaner stations where individuals can borrow properly fitted life jackets at no charge.

Now, therefore, I, Mo Malakoutian, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim May 16-22, 2026, as

National Safe Boating and Paddling Week

in Bellevue and encourage all residents and visitors to practice safe boating and paddling habits, including wearing life jackets, taking boating safety courses and staying informed about local water conditions.

Mo Malakoutian, Mayor
City of Bellevue