



**King County**

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# PROCLAMATION

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**WHEREAS**, Black History Month is celebrated every February in recognition of achievements by Black Americans and all people of African descent in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, historian and author Dr. Carter G. Woodson created Negro History Week in 1926, and this tradition was expanded in 1976 to Black History Month; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1986, the King County Council voted to designate the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as the County's namesake, honoring a man who continues to inspire us all to pursue fair and equal treatment to people of all races; and

**WHEREAS**, King County acknowledges and rejects the long history of institutional and structural racism toward African Americans in the U.S., and this observance of Black History Month calls our attention to the continued need to confront racism and build a society that lives up to its democratic ideals; and

**WHEREAS**, King County's Equity and Social Justice work reflects its commitment to racially just policies and practices that create opportunities for all people to thrive; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2020 theme of "African-Americans and the Vote" marks the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) recognizing the voting rights of Black men and the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment (1920) and the culmination of the women's suffrage movement, revealing the long history and ongoing struggle on the part of both Black men and Black women for the right to the ballot; and

**WHEREAS**, the scientific, technological, economic, political, and cultural innovations by Black Americans and African Americans have been essential to the progress of our nation and we will continue to honor these accomplishments every month and every day in Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., County, Washington State.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Dow Constantine, Executive of King County, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2020 to be

## **Black History Month**

in King County. I urge all County residents to join in this observance.



Dow Constantine  
King County Executive