

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** on February 28, 2001, the Nisqually earthquake struck the Puget Sound region, registering a magnitude 6.8 and causing millions of dollars in damage, including structural failures, broken utilities, and transportation disruptions; and
- WHEREAS,** since the Nisqually earthquake, Seattle has experienced significant population growth and economic expansion, adding hundreds of thousands of residents, substantial new infrastructure, and increased density to an area of high seismic risk, thereby increasing the potential consequences of a major earthquake; and
- WHEREAS,** unreinforced masonry buildings, commonly known as URM's, are among the most seismically vulnerable structures, and are often located in older, historic neighborhoods where they provide affordable housing and serve disadvantaged communities. Failure of URM's in an earthquake can result in loss of life, displacement of residents, and disproportionate harm to low-income communities and communities of color, also erasing important connections to Seattle's history and neighborhood identity; and
- WHEREAS,** in addition to unreinforced masonry buildings, other known vulnerable structure types, including non-ductile concrete buildings and soft-story structures, pose significant seismic risk, and proactively identifying, assessing, and planning for these risks is essential to further reduce loss of life, housing displacement, and economic disruption; and
- WHEREAS,** seismic retrofitting of vulnerable buildings is a proven, life-saving public safety measure that significantly reduces the risk of building collapse, protects occupants and first responders, and supports faster post-earthquake recovery; and
- WHEREAS,** seismic retrofits also advance Seattle's climate goals by extending the useful life of existing buildings, supporting adaptive reuse, and avoiding the significant carbon emissions associated with post-quake demolition, debris management, and new construction; and
- WHEREAS,** seismic retrofits strengthen Seattle's economic resilience by preserving local jobs, reducing disaster recovery costs, maintaining commercial corridors, and ensuring that neighborhoods can reopen and rebuild more quickly after a major seismic event; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Seattle has taken important steps to identify seismic risks, modernize building standards, reduce retrofit costs, and support property owners, while recognizing that continued partnership with building owners, community organizations, and state and federal leaders is essential to accelerate progress and expand loss-reduction efforts; and
- WHEREAS,** commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Nisqually earthquake provides an opportunity to honor the lessons learned, renew our shared commitment to preparedness, and act with urgency to reduce known risks before the next major earthquake occurs.

PROCLAMATION

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, KATIE B. WILSON, MAYOR OF SEATTLE DO HEREBY
PROCLAIM FEBRUARY 28TH, 2026, TO BE*

NISQUALLY EARTHQUAKE COMMEMORATION DAY

in the City of Seattle, and call upon residents, businesses, labor partners, and institutions to reflect on the lessons of the past, support seismic safety initiatives, advance the retrofitting of vulnerable buildings, and commit to identifying and addressing additional seismic risks.

Katie B. Wilson

Mayor Katie B. Wilson
City of Seattle

