STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

At Charleston

A PROCLAMATION

By the Governor

WHEREAS, Thanksgiving Day is Thursday, November 26, 2026, and is a state holiday under West Virginia Code Section 2-2-1(a)(10); and

WHEREAS, the day after Thanksgiving, also known as Lincoln's Day, is a state holiday under West Virginia Code Section 2-2-1(a)(11) that provides an additional day for West Virginians to celebrate with friends and family; and

WHEREAS, Thanksgiving is an opportunity for citizens across the United States to give thanks for the many blessings of life and the rich heritage of this nation; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the hard work accomplished by the public employees of this State, and in the spirit of showing gratitude to them, it is fitting and proper that the public employees of this State be permitted to cease business for the last half of the workday on Wednesday, November 25, 2026, to extend their Thanksgiving celebration with loved ones.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PATRICK MORRISEY, pursuant to the foregoing and by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Governor of the State of West Virginia, do hereby **PROCLAIM** and **ORDER** that the public employees of this State may be excused from their work duties on the last half of Wednesday, November 25, 2026, without charge against accrued annual leave; and do further **PROCLAIM** that this **ORDER** shall not affect private businesses, local governments, and other entities and individuals not employed by the State of West Virginia; nor shall it affect the work requirements of those public employees who may be called upon to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of West Virginia's citizenry and who will be compensated in accordance with the legislative rules established by the West Virginia Division of Personnel.

However, in accordance with West Virginia Code Section 2-2-1(c), county commissions may designate the last half of Wednesday, November 25, 2026, as a half-day of time off for county employees without charge against accrued annual leave, and the courts may treat the day as if it were a half-day legal holiday.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this Twentieth Day of November, in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Fourth Year of the State.

Patrick Morrisey

GOVERNOR

Kris Warner

SECRETARY OF STATE