

City of Poulsbo

Office of Mayor Edward (Ed) Stern



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, and became one of the most influential leaders in American history, dedicating his life to the pursuit of justice, equality, and human dignity through nonviolent resistance; Dr. King's leadership during the Civil Rights Movement transformed our nation, leading to the passage of landmark legislation including the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which dismantled legal segregation and expanded voting rights for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King's vision extended beyond civil rights to encompass economic justice, peace, and the beloved community where all people would be treated with dignity and respect regardless of race, religion, or background; his immortal words "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere" continue to inspire generations to work toward a more equitable society; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King made the ultimate sacrifice for his beliefs, assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee, while supporting striking sanitation workers in their fight for fair wages and safe working conditions; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed legislation establishing the third Monday in January as a federal holiday honoring Dr. King, making him the first African American to be honored with a federal holiday; Martin Luther King Jr. Day is observed not merely as a day off, but as a "day on" – a national day of service where Americans are encouraged to volunteer and improve their communities; and

WHEREAS, the themes of Dr. King's work – equality, justice, service, and nonviolence – remain profoundly relevant today as we continue to address systemic inequities and work toward building a more inclusive society; and

WHEREAS, the City of Poulsbo is committed to fostering a community where all residents feel welcomed, valued, and empowered to contribute to our collective well-being; and defending the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

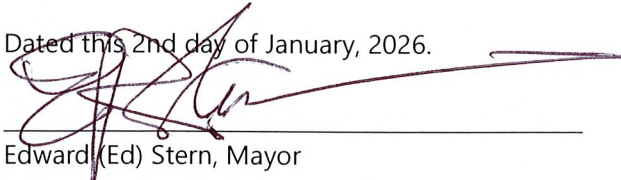
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Edward Stern, Mayor of the City of Poulsbo, Washington, do hereby proclaim January 19, 2026 as:

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

In the City of Poulsbo, let us honor Dr. King's memory not only with our words but with our actions, working together to build the beloved community he envisioned – a community where character, compassion, and justice triumph over prejudice and indifference.



Dated this 2nd day of January, 2026.


Edward (Ed) Stern, Mayor