



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**DIWALI**

**2019**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

## **A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, Diwali is a festival of historic, religious, and cultural significance, celebrated annually by over a billion people, and including millions of Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists throughout the United States and across the globe; and

**WHEREAS**, the diverse languages, traditions, and religious beliefs of the Hindu, Sikh, Jain, and Buddhist communities of our state comprise a vital part of North Carolina's ethnic and social fabric; these communities, as well as all Indian Americans, have contributed greatly to the economic and cultural prosperity of our state and nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Diwali, an abbreviation of the Sanskrit "Deepavali," is a festival of lights during which celebrants light small oil lamps, place them around their homes, and pray for knowledge, peace, compassion, and universal well-being; the rows of lamps symbolize the light of knowledge and truth triumphing over negative qualities such as ignorance and greed, as Diwali celebrates the victory of good over evil; and

**WHEREAS**, Diwali is a time for *dana* (charitable giving) and *seva* (selfless service) by bringing light in the form of wisdom, knowledge, nourishment, and shelter to alleviate the tangible forms of suffering such as hunger, disease, and poverty; and

**WHEREAS**, Diwali is celebrated by Hindus as a day of thanksgiving for the homecoming of Lord Rama and the beginning of the new year; and

**WHEREAS**, for Sikhs, Diwali is celebrated as the day that revered teacher Guru Hargobind was released from captivity by the Mughal Emperor Jahangir; and

**WHEREAS**, for Jains, Diwali marks the anniversary of the attainment of moksha, or liberation, by Mahavira at the end of his life in 527 BC; and

**WHEREAS**, for Buddhists, Diwali is commemorated as the day the great Emperor Ashoka embraced Buddhism as his faith; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina is proud and honored to wish all celebrants a joyful and prosperous Diwali this and every year;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 25 – 29, 2019 as "DIWALI" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
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Roy Cooper  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this eighteenth day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fourth.