



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

DIWALI

2024

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

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

WHEREAS, the diversity of the community that celebrates Diwali comprises a vital part of North Carolina's rich ethnic and social fabric, with languages, cultures, and religious beliefs that enrich our state; 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 home, and pray for knowledge, peace, compassion, and universal well-being; and

WHEREAS, the rows of lamps symbolize the light of knowledge and truth triumphing over negative qualities such as ignorance and greed; in other words, Diwali celebrates the victory of good over evil; 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 B.C.; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 1, 2024, as "**DIWALI**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



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 twenty-fourth day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-ninth.