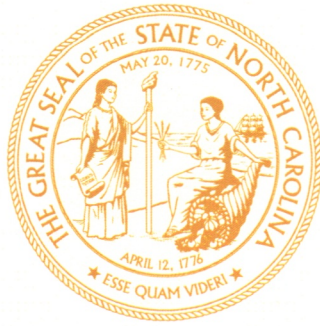




State of North Carolina

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

OMBUDS DAY

2026

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 2017, the American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution declared the second Thursday of October as Ombuds Day to recognize the value of providing informal and confidential channels for addressing organizational and workplace issues; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Ombuds Day theme is Ombuds: Office of Options; and

WHEREAS, ombuds, also referred to as ombudspersons or ombudsmen, are confidential, independent, and impartial conflict management professionals who work to address individual and systemic issues outside of and complementary to formal channels such as human resources, grievances, complaints, and legal action; and

WHEREAS, ombuds work in a wide variety of organizations within the State of North Carolina, including universities, governmental agencies, private enterprises, and more; and

WHEREAS, these professionals use various resolution methods and provide powerful risk management resources for the institutions they serve; and

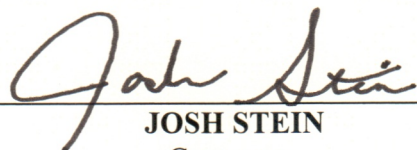
WHEREAS, during these difficult times, when many people are facing unprecedented and complicated challenges, the role of ombuds is more valuable than ever; and

WHEREAS, recognition of this day is an opportunity to increase awareness and understanding of the profession, highlight the value of ombuds, and encourage the use of ombuds programs; and

WHEREAS, the people of North Carolina are encouraged to learn more about the ombuds profession and to make use of these essential services as needed;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSH STEIN, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 8, 2026, as **"OMBUDS DAY"** in North Carolina and commend its observance.




JOSH STEIN
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 fourteenth day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-sixth and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifty-first.