



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### GEORGIA ARBOR DAY

- WHEREAS:** The first Arbor Day was celebrated in 1872 as a special day for planting trees and has grown to thousands of celebrations in communities across our nation each year; and
- WHEREAS:** Community trees improve public health and air and water quality, reduce the erosion of precious topsoil, increase property values and economic vitality in business areas, increase energy efficiency through shade, provide habitat for wildlife, beautify neighborhoods, parks, streets and residential developments; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Georgia's Urban and Community Forestry Programs have provided direct technical assistance to nearly 8 million Georgia residents, and has indirectly impacted the entire state to improve tree canopy and bring increased environmental, economic, and social benefits to all Georgia communities; and
- WHEREAS:** All of Georgia benefits from urban and community forestry, which contributes more than \$6.5 billion to our state's economy and provides employment for more than 51,500 people; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 20, 2026, as GEORGIA ARBOR DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.



*B. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Lauren M. Curry*

CHIEF OF STAFF