



City of Mercer Island, Washington *Proclamation*

WHEREAS, as many as 1 in 5 Americans are living with various disabilities, whether from diseases, injuries, aging, or other causes. Disability is diversity, and the disabled deserve the same opportunities for accessibility as others do, as a matter of fairness, equity, and inclusion.

1 in 10 people suffer from nearly 11,000 different rare diseases, and 95 percent of them do not have a cure, according to the National Institute of Health (NIH).

Rare Disease Day is observed annually on the last day of February, the rarest date on the calendar, to underscore the nature of rare diseases and their effects on us all.

Since 2008, Rare Disease Day has brought together millions of people worldwide in solidarity with the 300 million people living with a rare disease.

Rare diseases affect people in all communities, across all borders. On February 28, community members are invited to express support, advocate for equitable access to diagnosis, treatment, care, and social opportunities for the over 300 million people living with a rare condition, including those living with rare diseases in the Mercer Island community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dave Rosenbaum, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, do hereby proclaim February 28, 2026 as

RARE DISEASE DAY

on Mercer Island and I encourage Islanders to support the #RareDiseaseDay campaign by expressing support for those living with rare diseases in the Mercer Island community.

APPROVED, this 17th day of February 2026.

Mayor Dave Rosenbaum

Proclamation No. 377

