

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Infrastructure Act), signed into law on November 15th, 2021, includes the Digital Equity Act and the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Act which seek to achieve digital equity and expand high speed internet throughout the nation; and
- Whereas,** the U.S. Department of Commerce and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration requires that each state develop a Digital Equity Plan and a Five-Year Broadband Action Plan to obtain Infrastructure Act funding to implement digital equity programs and expand broadband; and
- Whereas,** Digital Equity means that all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy, and economy. Digital equity is necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential service; and
- Whereas,** too many West Virginians lack access to affordable, reliable, high-speed internet; and
- Whereas,** West Virginians who lack access to affordable, reliable, high-speed internet may lack the skills necessary to use information technology to its fullest potential; and
- Whereas,** my administration is committed to Internet for All West Virginians through West Virginia's Billion Dollar Broadband Initiative; and
- Whereas,** I have directed the West Virginia Department of Economic Development, Office of Broadband, to join with numerous partners to develop West Virginia's Digital Equity Plan and Five-Year Broadband Action Plan to obtain all available funding under the Infrastructure Act and to help achieve digital equity and expand broadband in the Mountain State; and
- Whereas,** all eligible West Virginians are encouraged to register for assistance with the cost of internet service under the Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program at <https://www.fcc.gov/acp>; and
- Whereas,** households are eligible for ACP assistance if household income is at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or if a member of the household participates in SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefits, SSI, WIC, Lifeline, Free and Reduced School Lunch, has received a Federal Pell Grant during the year of award, or meets additional eligibility criteria; and
- Whereas,** October 3-7, 2022, marks the National Digital Inclusion Alliance's (NDIA) *Digital Inclusion Week*, with observances throughout the United States designed to raise awareness of digital equity in communities throughout the country, and to highlight and celebrate accomplishments that promote digital equity.

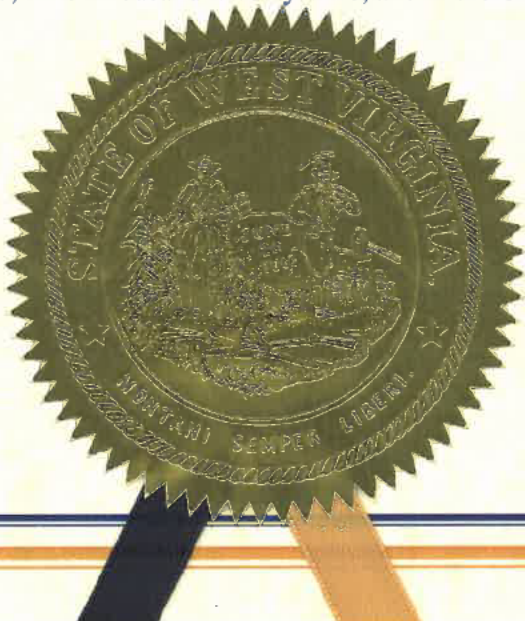
Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *October 3-7, 2022* as:

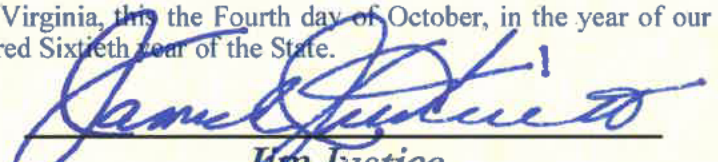
Digital Inclusion Week

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.

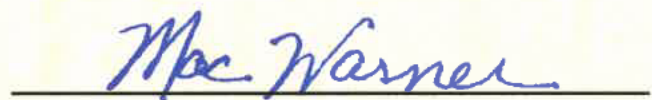
In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Two, and in the One Hundred Sixtieth year of the State.




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State