

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; in 2023, there were nearly 47,000 firearm-related deaths in America, including more than 700 Wisconsinites who lost their lives, according to the Wisconsin Violent Death Reporting System; and

WHEREAS; gun violence includes, but is not limited to, gun suicides, gun homicides, domestic violence involving a firearm, officer-involved shootings, and unintentional shootings, all of which have widespread implications for victims, survivors, and their communities; and

WHEREAS; a gun violence survivor is anyone who has experienced gun violence, whether through witnessing an act of gun violence, being personally threatened or wounded with a gun, or knowing someone who has been wounded or killed with a gun; and

WHEREAS; in every year since 2019, there have been more mass shootings than days in the year, according to data from the Gun Violence Archive, and data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that, as of 2020, firearms have been the leading cause of death for kids in America—surpassing car accidents and cancer—with gun death rates in this age group increasing by 106 percent over the last 11 years; and

WHEREAS; additionally, a report from End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin showed that Wisconsin saw a record number of domestic violence deaths in 2024, claiming the lives of 99 individuals, with firearms remaining the most common means of perpetrating domestic violence homicides, as data shows that in 2024, firearms were used in more than 70 percent of domestic violence deaths; and

WHEREAS; currently, in Wisconsin, nearly 60 percent of all suicide deaths are firearm-related, and a recent analysis on Gun Death in Wisconsin shows that firearm suicide rates remain higher in rural Wisconsin as compared to urban areas; and

WHEREAS; a majority of Wisconsinites support the implementation of commonsense measures like universal background checks and extreme risk protection orders, or “red flag” laws that ensure law enforcement and loved ones have the tools they need to keep guns out of the hands of people who are a dangerous risk to themselves or to keep Wisconsin’s kids and communities safe; and

WHEREAS; these commonsense policies—in addition to the newly established Wisconsin Office of Violence Prevention, increased investments in local communities, mental and behavioral health services and support, and community safety and violence interruption efforts, among other critical tools—will help save and change lives, keep guns out of the hands of people who are a danger to themselves or others, and prevent violence; and

WHEREAS; the state remains committed to working with partners across the state to support initiatives that reduce gun violence and suicide rates, including community- and evidence-based violence prevention services, suicide intervention programs, accessible mental and behavioral health services, and programs that uplift communities and break the cycle of trauma and violence; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion, the state of Wisconsin reaffirms its commitment to implementing commonsense gun safety measures and reducing gun violence in all its forms to save lives and keep kids, families, and communities safe, as well as honor gun violence victims and survivors everywhere;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim January 14, 2026, as

WISCONSIN GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS DAY

throughout the State of Wisconsin, and I commend this observance
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand and caused the
Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to
be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the
City of Madison this 5th day of January
2026.

TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor

SARAH GODLEWSKI
Secretary of State