

# STATE of WISCONSIN



## OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

# Proclamation

WHEREAS; Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 15, 1929, and was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968; and

WHEREAS; Dr. King left behind a legacy of civil rights activism that continues to fundamentally influence the fabric of American culture and society, as well as societies around the globe, to this day; and

WHEREAS; through his tireless advocacy and world-renowned oration, Dr. King rose to prominence in the mid-20th century as a leading figure of the civil rights movement in the United States, alongside other civil rights icons that include Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, John Lewis, James Farmer, A. Philip Randolph, Roy Wilkins, Whitney Young, and Dorothy Height, as well as Wisconsin's Vel Phillips, Lloyd Barbee, and James Groppi; and

WHEREAS; Dr. King dedicated his life to ensuring equal rights for all people through nonviolent protest and civil disobedience, and between 1955 and 1968, he wrote five books and numerous articles, delivered countless speeches, mobilized hundreds of thousands of activists, and traveled over 6 million miles to address the roots of injustice in American society; and

WHEREAS; Dr. King's legacy, the movements he led, and the seminal works he left behind, including his "I Have a Dream" and "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speeches and his written works, such as "Letter from Birmingham Jail" and "Pilgrimage to Nonviolence," laid the foundation for an unprecedented collective recognition of structural inequality as well as contemporary efforts toward the full realization of equity and justice for all individuals in the United States and around the world; and

WHEREAS; many of the injustices and inequities that Dr. King worked to address in his lifetime have nevertheless remained deeply entrenched in current culture and institutions, and on this occasion, to reflect on his life and lasting legacy, we are reminded that there is still much work left to be done to eradicate all forms of institutionalized discrimination, prejudice, and oppression; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin celebrates the life of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and reaffirms its commitment to continuing his work by rejecting bigotry and hate in all its manifestations, addressing pervasive institutional inequities, and expanding opportunity and inclusion for Wisconsinites of all backgrounds and identities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim January 19, 2026, as

## DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. 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.

The signature of Tony Evers, Governor of Wisconsin, in cursive ink.

TONY EVERES  
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

The signature of Sarah Godlewski, Secretary of State, in cursive ink.

SARAH GODLEWSKI  
Secretary of State