

WHEREAS; cardiovascular disease refers to a group of disorders that affect the heart and blood vessels, the most common being coronary artery disease, which impacts blood flow to the heart, potentially causing a heart attack that may lead to cardiac arrest if left untreated; and

WHEREAS; according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), heart disease is the leading cause of death in Wisconsin, and according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the disease claimed the lives of nearly 13,000 Wisconsinites in 2023 alone; and

WHEREAS; the CDC further estimates that 90 percent of people who experience cardiac arrest outside of a hospital do not survive, in part because they do not receive lifesaving care like CPR soon enough, underscoring the need to increase awareness around cardiovascular and heart disease as well as education on cardiac emergency response; and

WHEREAS; while most cardiac events can be prevented through healthy nutrition, regular physical activity, and routine medical checkups, not all Wisconsinites are given the same opportunity for heart health, highlighting the importance of improving the conditions that create and promote health and wellness in the state—including economic opportunity, stable employment, affordable, accessible healthcare, reliable transportation, access to nutritious food and quality housing, and more—to ensure equitable health outcomes for all; and

WHEREAS; common symptoms of heart disease can vary by gender and often goes undetected in women, and research suggests that cardiovascular disease leads to worse outcomes in women than men, prompting the need for increased awareness of the prevalence of heart disease in women, an understanding of common symptoms for different genders and ages, and further education on data-informed prevention techniques and strategies; and

WHEREAS; alongside the efforts of DHS and Wisconsin’s other state agencies to combat the prevalence of heart disease, the American Heart Association’s Go Red for Women® campaign encourages women to learn their family history, move more, eat well, and meet with a healthcare provider to determine their risk for heart disease and stroke; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion, the state of Wisconsin joins the many agencies, advocates, organizations, medical professionals, families, and researchers across the state in promoting heart disease prevention strategies, working towards the improved health and well-being of individuals across the state, and raising awareness of the warning signs of heart disease;

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

AMERICAN HEART MONTH

and February 6 2026 as

“WEAR RED” 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 16th day of January 2026.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State