

WHEREAS; the Friday night fish fry is a time-honored tradition in Wisconsin, and the state boasts thousands of restaurants, supper clubs, bars, taverns, church basements, community centers, and businesses that host weekly fries throughout the year; and

WHEREAS; as a large population of Catholic European immigrants settled in Wisconsin in the 19th century, the need for a meat alternative on Fridays during Lent became prevalent across the state, helping to establish the Friday night fish fry tradition, in addition to having an abundance of lakes and rivers with a variety of freshwater fish options, including perch, cod, bluegill, walleye, and more; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin's breweries and taverns also play an important role in the lasting prevalence of the state's fish fries, as they became popular hosts of Friday night fish fries during Prohibition to keep their businesses afloat; and

WHEREAS; often comprised of beer-battered and deep-fried fish, fries, coleslaw, rye bread, tartar sauce, and a lemon wedge, Friday night fish fries bring together family, friends, and neighbors to share in an iconic Wisconsin meal and tradition, and help to support local businesses and industries; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins fish fry enthusiasts across the state in celebrating this cherished Friday night tradition;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim February 20 2026 as

FRIDAY FISH FRY 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 27th day of January 2026.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State