

WHEREAS; according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), approximately two-thirds of Wisconsinites get their drinking water from groundwater supplies; and

WHEREAS; clean groundwater is not only critical as a source of drinking water for many Wisconsinites, but it is also a valuable resource for the vitality of Wisconsin's natural resources, such as streams, lakes, and reservoirs, as well as the state's robust agricultural industry and economy; and

WHEREAS; while groundwater is abundant in Wisconsin, there are specific areas of the state where the quantity and quality of available groundwater do not meet local demand; and

WHEREAS; protecting source water—rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater—from pollutants is the first line of defense in protecting Wisconsinites' water supply, and increased awareness and protection of these sources will reduce harmful health risks and costly maintenance; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin remains committed to fighting for greater protections for groundwater standards in the state and working to get PFAS, lead, and other harmful contaminants out of the state's water supply to ensure the well-being of kids, families, and communities, as well as addressing growing threats and extreme weather events brought on by climate change that can impact groundwater, such as flooding and drought; and

WHEREAS; whether it's kids in the classroom, families at home, or farmers and landowners, ensuring every Wisconsinite has access to clean water is a shared responsibility, and efforts at the state, county, and local levels are underway to expand access to clean and safe drinking water and improve water quality across the state; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins the DNR in reaffirming its commitment to protecting and conserving groundwater across the state and working to ensure all Wisconsinites can trust the water coming from their tap is safe, healthy, and free of harmful contaminants;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim March 8 through 14 2026 as

NATIONAL GROUNDWATER AWARENESS WEEK

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 26th day of February 2026.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State