

WHEREAS; officially declared the state dance on April 21, 1994, polka has long been a time-honored tradition in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; as a large population of European immigrants settled in Wisconsin during the 19th Century, polka music and dance spread throughout the state as European immigrants and their descendants sought a connection to the Old World, making polka a valued and cherished part of Wisconsin's culture and history; and

WHEREAS; polka music is distinct for its lively and cheerful nature, often incorporating fast tempos, upbeat rhythms, and a variety of instruments, creating a catchy and repetitive folk sound that is easy to dance to; and

WHEREAS; polka music and dance are interwoven in many Wisconsin family traditions to this day, including weddings, Friday night fish fries, festivals, and events big or small; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins polka enthusiasts, musicians, and families across the state in reflecting on the rich history of polka and encourages all Wisconsinites to celebrate this cherished state dance;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim April 21 2026 as

## **WISCONSIN POLKA 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 13th day of April 2026.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State