

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; every day, dozens of Americans are killed by gun violence, leaving countless friends, family members, and loved ones heartbroken and traumatized, and entire communities living in fear of experiencing or witnessing gun violence; and

WHEREAS; in 2026, there have been 160 mass shootings in the United States so far that have killed hundreds of people and injured even more, according to the Gun Violence Archive; and

WHEREAS; gun violence has serious implications for victims, survivors, and their communities, and includes, but is not limited to, gun suicides, gun homicides, domestic violence involving a firearm, officer-involved shootings, and unintentional shootings; and

WHEREAS; as gun sales have soared in recent years, calls to suicide and domestic violence hotlines have grown more prevalent, and gun violence continues to persist in communities across the state, a widespread commitment to gun violence prevention in Wisconsin and across the nation has never been more important; and

WHEREAS; no person should have to live in fear in their own home or at school, work, places of worship, movie theaters, grocery stores, shopping malls, or any other public space, and protecting public safety in communities across Wisconsin requires acknowledging the pervasiveness of gun violence in the country, collaborating with affected individuals, groups, and stakeholders, and taking immediate and meaningful bipartisan action to address this urgent and preventable issue; and

WHEREAS; the overwhelming majority of Wisconsinites support the implementation of commonsense measures like requiring violent history checks and closing the loophole so that everyone goes through a background check no matter what kind of firearm they are buying or where they are buying it through universal background checks and ensuring law enforcement and loved ones have the tools they need to keep guns out of the hands of people who are a dangerous risk to themselves or others by implementing a "red flag" law; and

WHEREAS; these commonsense policies—in addition to the work of the new Wisconsin Office of Violence Prevention, increased investments in local communities, mental and behavioral health services and support, and community safety and violence interruption efforts, among other critical tools—will help reduce crime, prevent gun violence, and keep kids, families, and communities safe; and

WHEREAS; in January 2013, fifteen-year-old Hadiya Pendleton was shot and killed in a senseless act of gun violence in Chicago, and inspired by a group of her friends who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange, National Gun Violence Awareness Day and "Wear Orange" Weekend have been observed annually since 2015 to pay tribute to Hadiya and all other victims and survivors of gun violence in the country, as well as their loved ones; and

WHEREAS; gun violence affects everyone, and by wearing orange and attending events on this day and throughout the weekend, all Wisconsinites and all Americans have the opportunity to help raise awareness of gun violence, urge leaders to take real, meaningful action to end gun violence, and honor the memory and loved ones of all those whose lives have been needlessly and senselessly taken by gun violence in Wisconsin and across the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim June 5, 2026, as

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

and June 5 – 7, 2026, as

"WEAR ORANGE" WEEKEND

throughout the State of Wisconsin, and I commend this observance
to 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 28th day
of May 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Evers".
TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Godlewski".
SARAH GODLEWSKI
Secretary of State

