

WHEREAS; on July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress, comprised of delegates from each of the original Thirteen Colonies, unanimously ratified the Declaration of Independence, founding the United States of America; and

WHEREAS; in this Declaration of Independence, the founding fathers laid forth the guiding principles on which our country would be founded, declaring that all men are created equal, and as such, endowed with certain inalienable rights, including “Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness”; and

WHEREAS; the founding fathers enounced that government derives its “just powers from the consent of the governed”, establishing a legacy of a government of the people, by the people, and for the people that endures today; and

WHEREAS; a Laboratory of Democracy, throughout its history—including the history of Indigenous peoples who have inhabited this continent and region since time immemorial—Wisconsin has played a significant role in the growth and success of this great nation, contributing to its rich culture, economy, ideals, innovations, and defense through the contributions and sacrifices of all those who have proudly called the “Badger State” home; and

WHEREAS; this semiquincentennial anniversary reminds all Wisconsinites and Americans of the principles upon which the nation was founded, the freedoms that so many have fought and died to protect, the fundamental values we share as Americans—regardless of who we are, where we live, or who we vote for—the work yet to be done to uphold the promise of liberty and justice for all, and our shared duty to ensure this grand experiment continues; and

WHEREAS; in honor of this historic milestone, parades and celebrations will take place across the nation to commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Independence and to celebrate 250 years of our nation’s history, progress, resilience, and the never-ending work to form a more perfect union as our Constitution demands; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins all Wisconsinites and Americans in celebrating 250 years of the United States of America;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim July 4 2026 as

AMERICA 250

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 10th day of June 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State