

WHEREAS; Wisconsin has long been known for its bountiful natural resources, which include over 84,000 miles of rivers and streams, approximately 800 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, more than 15,000 inland freshwater lakes, 5 million acres of wetlands, and 1.2 quadrillion gallons of groundwater; and

WHEREAS; water is among Wisconsin’s most valuable resources, and ensuring its excellence is essential to the health, safety, and quality of life of individuals across the state, alongside the many essential ecosystems that rely on the state’s waterways; and

WHEREAS; high-quality waters are an asset to the entire state of Wisconsin, as the state’s lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands generate major recreational and economic activity, including billions of dollars every year from anglers and waterfowl hunters alone, according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR); and

WHEREAS; the state’s surface, groundwater, and drinking water resources are interconnected, and continued efforts towards the restoration and protection of these water resources are vital to the Wisconsin way of life; and

WHEREAS; the state is committed to protecting Wisconsin’s navigational and recreational waters, investing in conservation, and working to ensure that every Wisconsinite can drink straight from their tap without fear of contamination; and

WHEREAS; in partnership with the DNR, 2019 was declared the Year of Clean Drinking Water in Wisconsin, prompting numerous actions over the years to improve water quality across the state, including utilizing state and federal resources to assist communities with replacing lead service lines and sampling municipal water supplies for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), along with the development of Wisconsin’s first enforceable statewide standards for surface water and public drinking waters to protect Wisconsinites from contaminants such as PFAS and nitrates; and

WHEREAS; this year, new bipartisan legislation was signed into law, which facilitated the release of the previously stalled \$125 million PFAS Trust Fund, providing real, meaningful relief to help families and communities tackle the pressing threat of PFAS in local wells, municipal water systems, and more; and

WHEREAS; despite ongoing efforts to continue improving water quality in the state, access to safe, clean, and reliable drinking water continues to be a concern for many across Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin reaffirms its commitment to making meaningful investments in water infrastructure, taking proactive measures to prevent water pollution and remedy existing contamination, and ensuring the highest quality of water in communities across the state;

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

NATIONAL WATER QUALITY MONTH

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 23rd day of July 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State