

# STATE of WISCONSIN



## OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS*; on August 6, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson was joined by civil rights leaders, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks, to sign the Voting Rights Act of 1965 into law; and

*WHEREAS*; while the 15th Amendment was ratified 95 years prior and made it unconstitutional for any man to be denied the right to vote based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude, widespread voter disenfranchisement efforts against people of color and other historically oppressed communities—and against Black Americans, in particular—persisted; and

*WHEREAS*; among the law's numerous landmark provisions is the prohibition of poll taxes and literacy tests at the polls, which had served as a major tool of voter suppression, as well as the institution of federal oversight and enforcement mechanisms aimed at states with a history of discriminatory election processes; and

*WHEREAS*; the immediate effects of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 included a significant rise in voter turnout across the United States, and by the end of the year, 250,000 Black Americans had been registered to vote, according to the National Archives; and

*WHEREAS*; despite the progress achieved over the past six decades, voting rights continue to face significant challenges today, as there are those who seek to undermine democracy and sow distrust in Wisconsin's fair, safe, and secure elections; and

*WHEREAS*; however today, Wisconsinites are reminded that democracy is not a prophecy; it is self-actuating, and that we must choose every day to continue this grand experiment, to accept the duty our forebears entrusted to us, and to affirm the certainty of this legacy—one founded on the principles of the importance of holding free and fair elections that allow for all eligible voters across the state and country to have easy and equitable access to the ballot box—continues for future generations; and

*WHEREAS*; today, the state of Wisconsin reaffirms its commitment to eliminating barriers to voting, especially for those historically disenfranchised, and to supporting efforts to make voting as easy and as accessible as possible to every eligible voter;

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim August 6, 2026, as

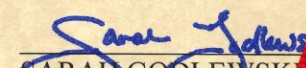
## 61ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

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 21st day  
of July 2026.

  
TONY EVERS  
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

  
SARAH GODLEWSKI  
Secretary of State

