

WHEREAS; libraries are an essential resource in communities across Wisconsin, offering free and accessible information to the public and serving as centers of knowledge and opportunity where community members of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities can feel safe and represented; and

WHEREAS; protecting and investing in public libraries is important to creating and maintaining more engaged communities, promoting a greater understanding of one another, and fostering a stronger democracy; and

WHEREAS; high-speed internet is not always accessible to Wisconsin's communities, and libraries can provide critical access to computers and Wi-Fi and often offer hotspots or laptops that can be checked out for use at home; and

WHEREAS; libraries disseminate information, instruction, and guidance, and help ensure history is preserved truthfully and with integrity, and Wisconsin's librarians go above and beyond to provide social and informational services to all who utilize their expertise; and

WHEREAS; in addition to boasting book-lined shelves and friendly, knowledgeable, and helpful librarians and staff, libraries also offer periodicals, audiobooks, and e-books, making the path to reading more accessible than ever; and

WHEREAS; according to a 2013 survey conducted by Pew Research Center, more than 61 percent of people aged 16 or older in the United States have a library card, and research shows that student achievement increases when schools have well-staffed and well-funded libraries; and

WHEREAS; this month presents an opportunity for all Wisconsinites to visit their local library, sign up for a library card, and support libraries across the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim September 2023 as

NATIONAL LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP 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 18th day of August 2023.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State