

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; the Underground Railroad was a secret network of people, routes, and safe houses offering shelter and support to African Americans and other enslaved people to escape to Northern states, Canada, and other destinations; and

WHEREAS; almost 80 years before Congress passed the 13th Amendment to abolish slavery in the United States, slavery was prohibited in Wisconsin under the 1787 Northwest Ordinance, making Wisconsin one of the states enslaved people would seek refuge in; and

WHEREAS; between 1842 and 1861, more than 100 formerly enslaved individuals—including Caroline Quarlls, the earliest recorded freedom seeker to travel through Wisconsin, and Joshua Glover, who was liberated from a jail in Milwaukee—were aided on their journey to freedom by Wisconsin residents; and

WHEREAS; while accounts of Underground Railroad experiences are scarce, as both those who traveled it and those who aided them had to be discreet about their activities, documentation relating to several courageous journeys through Wisconsin has since been uncovered; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin is home to one remaining authenticated Underground Railroad site that is available to the public, the Milton House Museum, which features an underground tunnel used by freedom seekers in North America; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin is committed to the preservation of Underground Railroad history and recognizes the efforts of the many people—in Wisconsin and around the world—who have dedicated their lives to keeping the memory of the Underground Railroad alive; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins all Wisconsinites and all Americans in recognizing the role of the Underground Railroad in the eradication of slavery in the United States, in reflecting and acknowledging the nation's history and how it informs the systems of oppression that persist today, and in committing to building a more just, equitable, and free state and nation for all;

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

INTERNATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD 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 7th day
of August 2026.

Tony Evers
TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

Sarah Godlewski
SARAH GODLEWSKI
Secretary of State