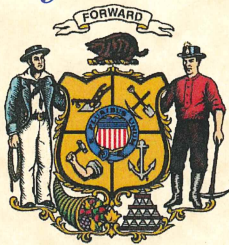


STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; Black History Month has been celebrated nationwide since 1976, following historian Carter G. Woodson and minister Jesse E. Moorland's efforts to research and promote Black achievement in the early 1900s, as well as the subsequent, nationwide call for racial equality that defined the civil rights movement of the 1960s; and

WHEREAS; Black History Month encourages us to celebrate the countless scientific, artistic, economic, entrepreneurial, and intellectual contributions of Black Americans in our communities, and to recognize and reaffirm the collective struggle for full citizenship, equity, inclusion, and justice Black Americans have endured throughout history; and

WHEREAS; this year's Black History Month theme is "African Americans and the Vote," in honor of the centennial anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment and the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Fifteenth Amendment, which granted some—but not all—women and Black men the right to vote, respectively; and

WHEREAS; much like the Nineteenth Amendment and the Fifteenth Amendment did not ensure universal suffrage rights, ongoing voter suppression tactics continue to stifle the suffrage rights of people of color across our state and this year's celebration presents a unique opportunity to recognize and address this truth; and

WHEREAS; in addition to making voting as accessible and easy as possible for all Wisconsinites, we must also ensure a fair and accurate count in the 2020 Census and that we are reaching hard-to-count populations, including Black Americans and communities of color, to guarantee every individual the same visibility and voice; and

WHEREAS; this Black History Month, the state of Wisconsin celebrates and encourages Black excellence in our communities, addresses and condemns infringements upon the personal autonomy and constitutional rights of Wisconsin's Black residents, and honors the work being done in our communities to create a more inclusive, equitable, and just state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim February 2020 as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

for the State of Wisconsin, and I commend this observance to all our citizens.

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
24th day of January 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Evers".

TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Douglas La Follette".
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State