

WHEREAS; observed on the date of the second new moon after the winter solstice, the Lunar New Year signifies the start of the new year in many east Asian cultures whose calendars are guided by the cycles of the moon; and

WHEREAS; typically celebrated through shared meals and festivities in the presence of family, friends, and communities, the Lunar New Year is regarded in many east Asian countries and cultural traditions as the most important celebration of the year; and

WHEREAS; the Lunar New Year is annually celebrated by over one billion people worldwide, including hundreds of thousands of Wisconsinites; and

WHEREAS; we recognize that due to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Lunar New Year celebrations will look a little different this year, as folks across our state, country, and world continue to sacrifice large gatherings with loved ones and friends in the interest of public health; and

WHEREAS; we also recognize that this Lunar New Year comes at a moment in which racist and xenophobic rhetoric against Asian Americans in our state and country has intensified, underscoring the importance of honoring the celebration and its guiding principles of community and togetherness, now more than ever; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion, we are reminded that we must not fear our diversity or our differences, which make us better people and better citizens, and we reaffirm our commitment to condemning and addressing discrimination, prejudice, and oppression of every kind; and

WHEREAS; today and throughout this new year, the state of Wisconsin joins community leaders, legislators, and all Wisconsinites in recognizing the Lunar New Year, using this opportunity to learn about the cultural history and traditions of many in the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, and working towards a more equitable and just future for our state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim February 12, 2021, as the start of the

## **LUNAR NEW YEAR**

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 10<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State