

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; 50 years ago today, the 26th Amendment to the United States Constitution was signed into law, lowering the universal voting age in our country from 21 years to 18 years and thereby extending the right to vote to millions of young Americans; and

WHEREAS; the 26th Amendment was proposed and passed by the U.S. Congress in March of 1971, and was ratified in the shortest time span of any constitutional amendment in American history, with Wisconsin becoming the 34th state to ratify on June 22; and

WHEREAS; it is important to acknowledge that generations of Americans—from suffragists in the early 20th century, to the young draftees in World War II who coined the phrase “old enough to fight, old enough to vote,” to civil rights activists throughout the 1960s—worked tirelessly for decades to secure the goals of the 26th Amendment; and

WHEREAS; today, young adults constitute one of our country’s largest and fastest growing voting blocs, and we recognize that the active participation of young people in our political process is essential to the preservation of our democracy and the creation of a bright future for us all; and

WHEREAS; people have bled, fought, and died for voting rights in the United States, and there are few things that we hold more sacred or that are more American than the right to vote, as the strength of our democracy and of our country depend on it; and

WHEREAS; recently, voting rights in Wisconsin and across our country have come under partisan attack, and as the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965 continues to be further undermined, the need to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and restore and strengthen voting rights in our country has never been more pressing; and


WHEREAS; as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 26th Amendment, the state of Wisconsin encourages Wisconsinites of all ages to reflect on the importance of civic engagement, urges eligible Wisconsinites to register to vote, and reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that every person over the age of 18 is able to exercise the right to vote that so many fought so hard to secure;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim July 5, 2021, as the

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 26TH AMENDMENT

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 2nd day of July 2021.



TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:


DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State

