## STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

WHEREAS; this July marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which codified protections against discrimination for folks with disabilities, required employers to begin providing reasonable accommodations, and established accessibility requirements in public places; and

WHEREAS; while the ADA was an important first step, discrimination and barriers to accessibility continue to negatively affect the lives of folks with disabilities in Wisconsin and throughout our country, including when it comes to voter registration and vote casting; and

WHEREAS; the disability community has a critical and continued interest in the enaction of policies at the local, state, and national level that advance the integration of folks with disabilities into all aspects of public life; and

WHEREAS; the involvement of the disability community in crafting public policy is essential if these policies are to accurately reflect and adequately meet the real needs of folks with disabilities in our communities; and

WHEREAS; voting is an essential way for folks with disabilities to exert their influence on policies at every level of government and, while every U.S. citizen has the right to vote, widespread voter suppression and disenfranchisement persist and overwhelmingly target historically marginalized groups like the disability community; and

WHEREAS; making voting accessible for folks of all abilities – whether by ensuring every polling place is equipped with accessible voting machines or by expanding mail-in and absentee voting options – is vital to protecting the legitimacy of our electoral process; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins Disability Rights Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition, and other disability rights groups in furthering the participation of Wisconsinites with disabilities in the full electoral process, securing the accessibility of polling places and the voting process, and encouraging voter registration and vote casting;

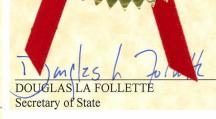
> NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim July 13 – 17, 2020, as

## NATIONAL DISABILITY VOTER REGISTRATION WEEK

hout 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 19<sup>th</sup> day of June 2020.

TONY EVERS GOVERNOR



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