

WHEREAS; this summer marked the 31st 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, discriminatory practices 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 enactment of policies at the local, state, and national levels that advance the inclusion of people with disabilities into all aspects of public life, and 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 United States 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 that every polling place is fully accessible and is equipped with accessible voting machines, by offering options for automatic voter registration, or by expanding mail-in and absentee voting options—is vital to protecting the voting rights of all Americans and the legitimacy of our electoral process; and

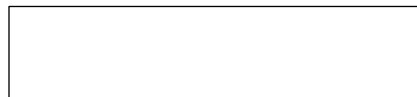
WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins Disability Rights Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities, the Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition, and other groups dedicated to advancing disability rights across our state in furthering the participation of Wisconsinites 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 September 13 through 17, 2021, as

## **NATIONAL DISABILITY VOTER REGISTRATION WEEK**

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 25<sup>th</sup> day of August 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State