



**WHEREAS**, on May 3, 1791, the people of Poland adopted a landmark Constitution, the first written modern constitution in Europe and the second in the entire world, surpassed only by the Constitution of the United States of America, a document born of Enlightenment ideals that enshrined the sovereignty of the nation, the separation of powers, the rule of law, and the protection of individual liberties; and

**WHEREAS**, the Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791 stands as a timeless monument to the universal human yearning for freedom and self-governance, forged at a moment of great peril for the Polish nation and reflecting the enduring courage and vision of the Polish people; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Wisconsin is home to a proud and vibrant Polish American community whose forebears came to this land in search of the same freedoms that the Polish Constitution of 1791 so boldly proclaimed, carrying with them a deep love of liberty, a devotion to family and faith, and an indomitable spirit that has enriched the culture, economy, and civic life of our great state; and

**WHEREAS**, on this 235th anniversary, Polish Americans from across Wisconsin and their friends and neighbors gather in the Capitol Rotunda to honor this heritage and reaffirm the shared democratic values that unite us, who bear witness to the enduring friendship between Poland and the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, this proclamation is issued with personal significance to the Secretary of State, who proudly honors her Polish heritage, rooted in ancestors who immigrated to the United States in the early twentieth century in search of freedom and a better life, joining a broader community whose enduring contributions continue to enrich our state and country; and

**NOW THEREFORE, I, SARAH GODLEWSKI**, Wisconsin Secretary of State, do hereby honor and recognize May 3, 2026, as Polish Constitution Day, in the State of Wisconsin and urge all residents to join in honoring the remarkable legacy of the Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791, celebrating the contributions of Polish Americans to our state and nation, and reaffirming our shared commitment to the principles of liberty, democracy, and human dignity for all.

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of my office, on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2026.



*Sarah Godlewski*  
**SARAH GODLEWSKI**  
Secretary of State